

JPRS 77405

17 February 1981

# South and East Asia Report

No. 970



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

#### NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

#### PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Indexes to this report (by keyword, author, personal names, title and series) are available from Bell & Howell, Old Mansfield Road, Wooster, Ohio 44691.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

17 February 1981

## SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

No. 970

## CONTENTS

## BANGLADESH

- Findings of Country's Agricultural Research  
(Mihir Kumar Roy; THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 18 Jan 81)..... 1

## INDIA

- Possibility of Early Gandhi-Reagan Talks Examined  
(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 7 Jan 81)..... 4
- Gandhi's Problems With Chief Ministers Told  
(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 9 Jan 81)..... 5
- Gandhi Addresses Bengal Chamber of Commerce  
(THE STATESMAN, 5 Jan 81)..... 6
- Gandhi Asks Sri Lanka To Speed Repatriation  
(THE HINDU, 7 Jan 81)..... 7
- WPC Chairman Talks to Press in Delhi  
(THE STATESMAN, 6 Jan 81)..... 8
- Delhi Plans To Protest World Bank Loan Withdrawal  
(PATRIOT, 6 Jan 81)..... 9
- Planning Commission Prunes States' Outlays  
(PATRIOT, 6 Jan 81)..... 11
- Gauhati High Court Rules on Agency News  
(THE STATESMAN, 7 Jan 81)..... 13
- Details of Assam's Immigrant Problem Told  
(Manash Ghosh; THE STATESMAN, 5-8 Jan 81)..... 14
- 'Foreigners' Come Handy in Assam  
How Tripura Gets Its New "Citizens"  
They Keep Pouring Into West Bengal  
Wrong Policies All the Way

Janata Chief Talks to Press in Ahmedabad (THE HINDU, 7 Jan 81).....	21
President Cautions Public Sector on Indifference (THE HINDU, 7 Jan 81).....	22
Abdullah Reappointed Envoy to Saudi Arabia (THE HINDU, 9 Jan 81).....	23
Tamil Nadu Essential Services Ordinance Issued (THE HINDU, 9 Jan 81).....	24
Birendra Singh Opens Karakka Pact Review (THE STATESMAN, 8 Jan 81).....	25
New ROK Envoy Urges Stronger India-ROK Ties (THE STATESMAN, 7 Jan 81).....	26
Drive Against Dacoits, Naxalites Deemed Necessary (THE HINDU, 7 Jan 81).....	27
Labor Minister Speaks at ILO Asian Parley (PATRIOT, 5 Dec 80).....	28
Laldenga Optimistic Mizo Problem Will Be Solved (PATRIOT, 8 Jan 81).....	29
Trade With GDR To Rise by 28 Percent in 1981 (PATRIOT, 8 Jan 81).....	30
CPI's Rao Holds Jaipur Press Conference (PATRIOT, 31 Dec 80).....	31
Maharashtra Janata Party Conference Reported (B. M. Purandare; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 6 Jan 81).....	32
Union, State Planning Ministers Confer (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 6 Jan 81).....	33
New Karnataka Political Body To Rally Farmers (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 6 Jan 81).....	34
History of Indo-EEC Trade Relations Reviewed (Arun Kumar Banerji; THE STATESMAN, 6 Jan 81).....	35
Calcutta Police Interrogate Suspected Spy (THE STATESMAN, 7 Jan 81).....	37
Sikkim Leader Warns Against Aiding Troublemakers (THE STATESMAN, 23 Dec 80).....	38

Commander Interviewed on Southern Naval Command (H. Kusumakar; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 4 Dec 80).....	39
Economic Cooperation With Indonesia Discussed (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 4 Dec 80).....	42
Writer Examines Developments in Ladakh (THE STATESMAN, 9 Jan 81).....	43
Content of Backward Classes Commission Report Told (THE HINDU, 7 Jan 81).....	44
Delineation of National Energy Policy Urged (Editorial; THE HINDU, 8 Jan 81).....	45
Shipping Tonnage To Be Increased During 80's (PATRIOT, 7 Jan 81).....	47
Revised Consumer Price Index Planned for 1985 (THE HINDU, 7 Jan 81).....	48
Dacca Rumored Planning Indian Trade Center (PATRIOT, 8 Jan 81).....	49
Subsidy for Investment in Northeast Raised (PATRIOT, 23 Dec 80).....	50
Problems of Smallscale Industry Examined (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 6 Jan 81).....	51
Limitations on Foodgrain Export Deemed Necessary (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 4 Dec 80).....	53
Bangladesh Minister Arrives for Waters Talks (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 7 Jan 81).....	54
CPI Issues Statement Against Opposition Unity (PATRIOT, 9 Jan 81).....	55
Government Changes Policy on Third Airline (K. N. Malik; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 7 Jan 81).....	57
Andhra Pradesh 1980 Economic Developments Reviewed (K. K. Sastry; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 7 Jan 81).....	58
Sathe Scores 'Distorted' Reporting on Farmers' March (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 30 Dec 80).....	60
Plans for Indigenous Automobile Reported (PATRIOT, 9 Jan 81).....	61

Large Mineral Deposits Found in Thar Desert (THE HINDU, 7 Jan 81).....	62
---	----

#### Briefs

Message to Pakistan	63
Loan From Netherlands	63
BHEL Generators to Nepal	63
Menon Energy Chief	63
Gorkha League Leader Dies	64
Bihar BJP Executive	64
Meghalaya Cabinet Expanded	64
Marxist-Leninist Appeal	64
National Security Act	65
Indo-Algerian Oil Pact	65
Goa Free Trade Zone	65
Death of MP	65
Tamil Nadu Languge	65
Tamil Nadu Muslim League	66
Ambassador to Ethiopia	66
Vidarbha Advocate Dies	66

#### SRI LANKA

Indian Finance Minister Meets Press in Colombo (THE HINDU, 7 Jan 81).....	67
--	----

# FINDINGS OF COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Jan 81 pp 5, 6

[Article by Mihir Kumar Roy]

[Text]

AGRICULTURE is the oldest and most important avocation of the world. The human society is dependent upon agriculture for its food, clothing and shelter. At certain stages of agricultural development it used to be the only known means of living. Even today in the highly developed industrial countries, agriculture plays a major role as the supplier of raw materials for industries and commerce apart from its basic role in supplying food clothing, and shelter. Therefore, the welfare of a state to a large extent is dependent upon the prosperity of its agriculture. Although agriculture is the mainstay of an economy yet in our country it has been pursued in a traditional way for generations. In this practice, the ploughing of lands, sowing of seeds, harvesting of crops and other care of crop culture are of very low standard resulting in low production of crops. This pattern of agriculture started long ago and it developed step by step. The presumption is that the domestication of plants and animals was followed by agriculture and might have started 10 to 12 thousand years ago. The ancient Egyptian and phoenicians grew plants along the Mediterranean and the Aryan nations in their migration towards Europe and Asia carried with them cultivated plants and domestic animals. Bangladesh is comparatively of recent origin as most parts of this country arose out of the sea-bed due to the deposit of fertile silt brought from the upper region and cultivation started much later days in this country. The

scientific method of agriculture started by 1860 in Europe and America and this led to the diffusion and a large scale cultivation of new plants in the new environment. By 1905 institutions were established in the Indian subcontinent including Bangladesh for the same purpose and unfortunately, this country was slow in adopting scientific agriculture as it was late in starting agricultural education as well as research. However, the beginning was made although there had been somewhat general apathy towards agriculture all along. In 1910 an agricultural research centre was established which was an humble beginning in this regard. A 500 acres farm was established in Tejgaon area which is popularly known as Monipur Farm. The first era in the field of agricultural research was in between 1910 and 1930. Then one Agricultural Chemistry Division began work on soil, fertilizer requirements of rice, jute and sugarcane etc. Practically, chemical fertilizers were not then available in this country. Locally produced bonemeal met phosphate requirement, while cowdung, and oil cakes were used as sources of nitrogen and wood ashes as the source of potassium. They identified clearly the important role of the organic matter in manures and found that liberal application of well rotten cowdung in many cases increased 50 per cent yield. This may be called the initial phase of organic recycling in crop and soil management. Later, an Economic Botanist Division was created to initiate crop breeding. Local rice varieties were collected

from different parts and tested in different seasons to determine their yield potentials. Japanese rice varieties were introduced in 1918 and were found to be unsuitable for our hot and humid climate. A good deal of basic work was done on morphology, anatomy and genetics.

The year from 1921 to 1930 may be called the second era in the field of agricultural research. During this period, a few rice varieties like Indrasali and bhasamanik were found to be suitable and producing higher yields in the transplant aman and kataktara in the aus season. Demonstration farms were established in each District to promote transfer of technologies and create awareness among local farmers for growing better crops. At that time, another research station was established at Chinsurah to identify and measure variability due to changes in ecosystems. Another Economic Botanist Division was created to deal with deep-water rice, pulses and oil seeds. The third era i.e. from 1931 to 1947 was very important as the magnitude of research expanded many folds in this period. Hybridization of rice was taken up to introduce better genes. Among them, Dular is still cultivated. Research on chemical fertilizer like ammonium sulphate, sodium nitrate superphosphate, calcium nitrate, lime, muriate of potash etc. were important and proved to be very effective as sources of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Experiments on green manure with cowpea, dhaincha and sunn hemp also significantly increased rice, jute and



sugarcane yield. The Central Rice Research Institute was established in 1934-35 to intensify research on rice at the central station at Dacca. Similarly, a Central Rice Research Institute was proposed to be established at Dacca but it was not possible due to some reasons. A deep water and boro rice regional station was established at Habiganj in Sylhet with the financial assistance of Indian Government and it became a part of agricultural research in Bangladesh after partition. Nizamsail and Latisail, two outstanding low input aman rice, were developed during this time. Dhariel, Marichbati, Dular and Hashikalmi are popular aus rice and are still cultivated in our country. An agricultural college was established adjacent to the Dacca central Farm on additional 150 acres of land. Teachers of the college also conducted research on agriculture. At that time research on animal nutrition showed better results. Suitable rations for both milk and draught animals were standardized. Grading local catle breed by Hariana and Tharparkar breeds showed encouraging results. To improve the local poultry wholesale introduction of Rhode Island Red, White Leghorn and Plymouth Rock even though created much enthusiasm, their susceptibility to diseases prevented progress. The 1942-43 famine opened up new avenues for research on wheat and other cereal crops like barley, maize and millets. The great many development plans suffered due to partition of India in 1947. The 1948 to 1955 period was very tragic for the researcher.

Meagre financial resource and want of equipment, chemicals and scientific stores stalled progress of research. Japanese, Egyptian and Spanish rice tested during 1953-55 in the Boro season yielded as much as 60-70 mds/acre and paved the way for the era of modern rice in Bangladesh. A sugarcane Research Institute was established at Iswardi with a view to accelerating the pace of effective research on Sugarcane. When research was gaining momentum, the central Experimental Station (Dacca Farm) was dismantled for construction of the second capital for Pakistan without allocating it any suitable land or providing facility for research. In 1961 all research divisions were brought under one administration and named as the Agricultural

Research Institute. In 1965, the Ford Foundation and the International Rice Research Institute came forward in launching a small Accelerated Rice Research Project (ARRP). In 1967, of the 650 acres requisitioned at Joydebpur, 80 acres were allotted to the ARRP. A field laboratory started operation in November, 1970. However, introduction of high yield potential rice varieties such as IR-8, IR-5, Purbachi and IR-20 coupled with large scale fielding of power pumps and installation of deep and shallow tubewells provided inputs for higher yield. Rice research gained new momentum and by 1970 new crosses made here began to show bright prospect. In spite of all these tragic developments, high yield Potential Mexican wheats by 1969 were successfully introduced. Research results on banana, papaya and pine apples paid dividends. Farmers introduced Amritasagar banana which became popular throughout Bangladesh. Home queen and Giant Kew pine apples began to be cultivated in large scale in Madhupur, Sylhet and Chittagong Hill Tracts. The Bangladesh Agricultural University established at Mymensingh in 1962 produced agriculture graduates in a larger number for research and extension organizations. The Atomic Energy Commission also increased the pace of research on the use of mutants in crop breeding. The soil survey department surveyed more than 70 per cent of the land in the country. The next phase of agricultural research began with the revitalization of research activities. The Agricultural Research Institute received USAID and IDA assistance. The Sugarcane Research Institute with the assistance from the government of Australia was reactivated. The newly formed Agricultural Research Council also subscribed new research projects. During this period rice research greatly advanced and development of Mala, Chandina, and Biplab began a new era of rice production. On the average, modern varieties covered about 10 per cent of the total area and produced about 20 per cent of the total produce. Wheat research was next to rice with new varieties like sonalika gaining wide popularity. The Institute of Nuclear Agriculture also developed two mutant varieties of rice called IRRATOM 20 and M. The period from 1976 may be called the produc-

tive phase. I saw success of more than half-a-century of agriculture research through trials and tribulations. New rice varieties like BR-4, BR-5, BR-6, BR-7, provided wider choice to farmers with a high range of adaptability and a wide spectrum of pest resistance. Research on socio-economic constraints on crop production brought in new dimensions to research and transfer of technology. Thus we see that the past efforts in agricultural research is the glory and achievements in the field of agriculture. Many contributions to our present knowledge about crops and soils have been made by the agricultural experimental stations during the last sixtyfive years. But what is the present implication and scope of the past research result in solving the present agricultural problem of Bangladesh is the main point to discuss. Apart from the introduction of new crops the per acre yield of existing crops have also been increased by effective measures to improve the various factors of production. Agricultural research has led to the recommendations of growing sweet potato and hybrid maize which give 5 to 6 times more yield than the cereals like rice and wheat. Per unit production has been raised by growing multicrops on land where only one crop a year had formerly been cultivated. This has been made possible by researches on crops and soils. Under our conditions, it has been found that varieties recommended by the department yield more than the improved varieties from other countries in the usual aus and aman season. However, promising varieties for these seasons are also being developed fast. The impact of agricultural research in terms of money is apparent from the fact that improved varieties like Nizamsail, Dhariel, Katakara, yield at least 3 mds. per acre more than ordinary varieties without any extra expenditure. There is a variety of T. Aman, Da-31, which matures by October, enabling farmers to grow rabi crops very easily. Though its yield is low, it is liked by farmers for its quality, similarly, varieties have been released which are resistant to flood, salinity and drought. Departmental sugarcane varieties already yield four times as much as the inferior varieties. The high yielding varieties of rice has made a valuable contribution in the



agricultural economy of Bangladesh by providing more yield per acre to the farmers.

In spite of all these contribution made by the agricultural research in the field of agriculture, it is great wonder that the country faced a severe food deficit every year and in order to meet the growing demands for food grains, the country had to import several tons of food grains at the cost of foreign currency. The reason for this was not very far to seek. Here comes the socio-economic implications of HYV of crop. First, who benefited from the new innovations? It has been found from many research findings that, due to the introduction of HYV of crops, the rich became more richer and the gap between the rich and the poor has become wider. This is due to the fact that the 'HYV's were very much capital intensive crops and required more fertilizer, insecticide irrigation water and manpower than the traditional varieties which the well-to-do farmers can only afford. On the other hand, the small and marginal farmers always tried to depend on their age old traditional varieties due to financial constraint, and they got the poor yield in comparison to the 'HYV' practised by the rich farmers.

Secondly, the present land tenure system was responsible for the slow adoption of HYV of crop in our country. If we analyse the population statistics of our country, it was found that at present 30 to 40 per cent of the rural population are considered to be landless and including the small farmers, this figure comes to about 55 to 60 per cent. The small farmers and landless agricultural workers constitute

the majority in the rural populace directly or indirectly depend upon the landed farmers or well-to-do absentee landlords for their livelihood through different tenurial arrangements the most important of which is the share-cropping. Under this system the sharecroppers bear the entire cost of producing the total output and get 50 per cent of the produce. There is common notion that under this system, the tenant farmers do not have sufficient incentive to make a judicious use of the share-crop land because the entire cost has to be borne by the cultivator, tenancy is oral and on a year basis, rent was exorbitant and the land-owner's share is transported to his house and so on. As a result share-cropping acts as a powerful disincentive in undertaking productive agriculture because additional cost does not match the share of additional output and the share cropped land can not be mortgaged for obtaining govt./Semi govt. credit since he has no tenancy right on the land.

Thirdly, There was no such rural institution in our country which virtually acted as sole guardian for safeguarding the interest of the small and marginal farmers. The co-operatives could not make the headway to safeguard the interest of the poor in rural areas. As a result, majority of the farm families could not able to use different inputs for the 'HYV' of crop which had a very negative impact on the total production of the country.

Fourthly, it is the prime responsibility of the agricultural extension department to sell idea of new innovation to the farmers. But they were not able to do it because, they had a very poor knowledge on the farmer's way of work and his way of life.

In such a situation the scope

of agricultural research should be enlarged both from the technical and socio-economic viewpoint. In order to innovate more varieties, more research sub-station should be set up in different regions of the country. The most spectacular increase, obtained in Japan, is attributed to extensive research conducted on rice at 8 national rice research institutes, 40 regional stations and over 350 experimental stations under heavy fertility and irrigated conditions and the dissemination of research results and their wide adoption by the farmers. Japan practically grows one rice crop in her seven million acres of land and for the improvement of this crop government have taken the steps although it is situated in the temperate zone. In our country there is a great need for increasing scope for research because of larger area of rice crops as well as presence of the tricky nature of climate. In fact, if the agricultural research is to make any appreciable impact then it should be made to each district on a large scale on all crops so that farmers, extension workers can see for themselves the results by visiting experimental stations and can apply them profitably. Such experimental stations would be used as training centre for the extension workers so that, they can see for themselves the improvement which has been effected in these stations. The Training & Visit (T & V) system of agricultural extension department now being experimented in Raishahi Division will open avenue for more solution of problems in the country. The socio-economic factors must also be studied side by side in order to implement the result of research in rural areas. The policy about this will dictate the future of research plan for our agriculture.

## POSSIBILITY OF EARLY GANDHI-REAGAN TALKS EXAMINED

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy: "Early Indo-U.S. Dialogue?"]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan 6.

There have been some discreet inquiries from Washington about the Prime Minister's foreign travel plans for the year, more particularly her proposed visit to Mexico City in May-June for the North-South summit which could provide an opportunity for a brief stop-over to meet the new U.S. President.

But there can be no worthwhile initiative from the American side for such a meeting until Mr. Ronald Reagan has settled down in office and is ready to engage in a serious dialogue with Mrs. Gandhi either on Indo-U.S. relations or the regional situation.

So in indicating her readiness to meet the new President at a mutually convenient time, Mrs. Gandhi has been taking care to impress on all concerned that she does not want to rush into it without adequate preparation. The

Indian side has also been stressing that the timing of such a meeting is as important as the fact of it.

**Proper Visit Better**

The Indian and American advocates of an early dialogue between Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Reagan seem to think differently on how the two Governments should proceed with it. One view is that a proper visit by Mrs. Gandhi later this year, in response to a formal invitation by the U.S. President, would be more productive than a brief stop-over in Washington.

But there are others who feel that the two leaders should get to know

each other better through a preliminary meeting before they can discuss major issues with some degree of mutual confidence. They maintain that it would be more desirable to let the new Administration chalk out its own priorities and have Mr. Reagan open the dialogue with Mrs. Gandhi at a time of his choice.

There were some hints earlier from Mr. Reagan's transitional team that the new President would probably like to set the ball rolling for such talks with important world leaders by sending out special envoys on goodwill missions to prepare the ground for subsequent discussions. It was made known that India figured quite prominently in his thoughts as one of the major countries that needed to be cultivated by the new Administration.

**North-South Summit**

The Foreign Ministers of nine or 10 countries, including India, representing both developed and developing nations, met in Vienna in November last at the initiative of Austria and Mexico to discuss the mechanics of the proposed North-South summit conference.

They felt that another round of preparatory talks would be necessary before a list of 30 or 40 invitees could be drawn up and an agenda set for this summit by utilising the Brandt Commission report as a fresh starting point for putting some new life into this effort for a more equitable economic dispensation.

There is thus some uncertainty still about the timing of the Mexico summit which, according to the latest thinking, cannot be held before May-June. The Prime Minister will be able to get a clearer indication when the Mexican President arrives in Delhi later this month on a State visit to be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations.

Apart from the Tarapur issue, the way the World Bank has been exerting pressure on India over the choice of the consultants for the Thal fertilizer project is souring Indo-American relations. But then the U.S. cannot be blamed entirely for this new irritant since India has not offered any convincing explanation yet for the switch-over from the American firm to the Danish combine with substantial Italian participation.

The real test for Indian and American diplomacy will be how to isolate such recurring irritants in Indo-U.S. relations from the larger foreign policy pursuits of the two countries which are inextricably linked up with their respective attitudes towards third countries like the Soviet Union, China or Pakistan.

This calls for an imaginative and painstaking effort by both sides to concentrate more on what unites than divides them. And a Mrs. Gandhi-Reagan meeting can certainly help to dispel some of the false assumptions on either side and set the right tone for a fruitful dialogue on substantive issues of greater concern to them.

## GANDHI'S PROBLEMS WITH CHIEF MINISTERS TOLD

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy: "Mrs Gandhi Wants Halt to Spoils System"]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 8.

Once again the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is faced with the thankless task of shielding some of the weaker Chief Ministers, while pulling up the wayward ones in the Congress (I)-run States.

Though the in-fighting in any of these States has not yet assumed any disquieting proportions calling for Central intervention, the very existence of influential pockets of dissidence in the ruling Congress (I) legislature parties almost everywhere continues to cause concern here.

The proposed steps by Mrs. Gandhi include an effort to establish a better working relationship between the Chief Ministers and the PCC Presidents, besides cautioning some of the capricious Chief Ministers against the hazards of attempting to browbeat their detractors with threats of disciplinary action.

She is also admonishing some of the Central Ministers for encouraging dissidence in their home States, often misusing her name.

**One year moratorium:** After the present Congress (I) Governments were formed in these States, Mrs. Gandhi made it known to all concerned that she was not going to countenance any demands for changes of leadership for at least a year.

With only six months left of this one-year moratorium, pressures are built

up in almost every State for either replacement of the present Chief Ministers or reconstitution of the ministries to provide for more equitable representation.

The Prime Minister is evidently not too worried about the present degree of dissidence in these States, since she appears to be quite confident that it can be curbed or contained by wielding the big stick or dangling the carrot.

What is really troubling her is the present philosophy of the spoils system which automatically transforms all those left out of a State Cabinet into potential or active dissidents ready to strike at the first opportunity open to them.

**Andhra Precedent:** It is this ugly reality that obliged the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. T. Anjiah, to go in over for a large Cabinet to buy peace. But since the Andhra precedent has already started generating pressures for similar expansions in other States it is as much to discourage the plea for larger Cabinets everywhere as to restore some sense of proportion in Andhra Pradesh that she has decided to prune Mr. Anjiah's team.

After allowing the Central Ministers from Andhra Pradesh to spearhead the campaign for Dr. Chenna Reddi's ouster in her name, Mrs. Gandhi is not able to restrain her other colleagues from engaging in similar activity either openly or clandestinely in their home States.

Her advice to the Home Minister, Mr. Zail Singh, not to interfere in Punjab

affairs or the Petroleum Minister, Mr. P. C. Sethi, to keep out of Madhya Pradesh politics has not deterred them from working for the downfall of the Chief Ministers in these two States.

It is an open secret here that Mrs.

Gandhi is not too happy with the way Mr. A. R. Antulay and Mr. Gundu Rao have been running Maharashtra and Karnataka, although she is not prepared to tolerate any attempts to ouster them.

But the real problem States where she has to prop up the Chief Ministers are Bihar and Rajasthan, where Mr. Jagannath Pahadia and Dr. Jagannath Mishra are under heavy pressure.

The position in Gujarat, Orissa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh is relatively better. But the U.P. Chief Minister, Mr. V. P. Singh, has to contend with powerful groups in the State which are out to weaken him.

One reason why Mrs. Gandhi accepted Mr. Kamla Pathi Tripathi's resignation was to forewarn others encouraging dissidence in U.P. that she was not going to tolerate it.

But the fact remains that all these nominated Chief Ministers are surviving on borrowed time with no indication at all how long Mrs. Gandhi will back them. The general feeling in Congress (I) circles here is that she will have to make some changes either before or after the one-year deadline to strengthen the State Governments.

## GANDHI ADDRESSES BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Jan 81 pp 1, 9

[Text]

Mrs Gandhi said in Calcutta on Sunday that the West Bengal Government must improve law and order to help develop the State's economy. The State Government would have to provide security for the managers in industries against physical assaults. She was addressing a meeting of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Before Mrs Gandhi's address, the Governor of West Bengal, Mr T. N. Singh, and the president of the chamber, Mr O. M. Somany, referred to the stagnating economy of West Bengal and the Governor in particular, said that it was futile to go on discussing who was at fault—the State or the Centre—in not providing the necessary push for growth. He said both should join hands to see that the economy improved. Mr Singh felt that Mrs Gandhi could take the lead.

Evidently not totally convinced by the analyses of Mr Somany and Mr Singh Mrs Gandhi pointed out that the law and order problem was primarily responsible for retarding economic growth in West Bengal. According to her, the industrial sickness in the eastern region was of a special nature. Industries are crippled by power shortage. The State had to listen to the Centre's suggestion to improve the efficiency of the power plants. Mrs Gandhi said.

She promised that applications for setting up new industries in the region would receive due consideration of the Centre. The State Government had to play its role in promoting industries.

Referring to the projects at Farakka and Haldia and the Metro Railway projects, Mrs Gandhi denied the allegation that the Centre was discriminating against the State. She said that in preparing the draft of the Sixth Plan, West Bengal's proposals had been fully considered.

The three years before the latter half of 1980 were a period of "stress and strain"; the rate of

inflation was high. Industrial production dropped and the planning process "seemed to have rolled up". To these disturbing trends had been added the worst drought of last year.

## OPTIMISM

She was optimistic that the deceleration in the inflationary pressure had started from October last year. Coal production had picked up to the satisfaction of the power plants which were facing acute shortage of the commodity. Production of steel and fertilizer and some consumer articles had increased. She said that the proposals of the Sixth Plan had been finalized in the "shortest possible time". And she hoped that the next rabi crop would be good.

Mrs Gandhi said the Government was aware of the industry's problem of power. Several high-level committees had been constituted to improve efficiency of the plants. The movement of railway wagons had also picked up.

To speed up clearance of applications for industrial licences a time-limit had been fixed. Industries promising to export 100% of their production had been given fiscal relief. But, Mrs Gandhi said the "private sector industries" had not risen to "our expectations" in ploughing back their profits into new industrial ventures. She hoped the industries would invest more funds in new projects in the months to come. She wanted the larger industries to help small units thrive in the rural areas. The Centre was doing "little by little" its job to uplift the rural people within the constraints of limited resources.

## GANDHI ASKS SRI LANKA TO SPEED REPATRIATION

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Jan 81 p 9

[Text]

MADRAS Jan 6.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi, has stressed the need to expedite the pace of repatriation of people of Indian origin from Sri Lanka in her letter to the President of the island, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene.

The letter was handed over to the Sri Lanka President by Mr. R. Venkataraman, Union Finance Minister, during his three-day official visit to Colombo.

Talking to newsmen at the Madras Airport after his return from Colombo, he said that Mr. Jayewardene had said he would take up this matter very soon.

The question of repatriation ought to have been settled within 15 years under the 1964 Shastri-Sirimavo Agreement, and which expired in 1979. The Sri Lanka Government wanted an extension of another two years, which had already been granted.

The Minister said that although the Union Government had already granted Indian Citizenship to prospective repatriates from Sri Lanka, the Government there was unable to send them back to India, since these persons had not been paid their provident fund and other benefits in full. The Sri Lanka Government should either grant them citizenship rights in Sri Lanka or repatriate them to India as soon as possible after settling their legitimate dues.

Mr. Venkataraman said the Rs. 10 crore credit which he signed in Colombo today was extended at a concessional rate of interest of five per cent. The repayment was spread over a 15-1.2 year period with a moratorium of three years which would begin from the time they draw credit.

The Minister said that India had authorised the Sri Lanka Government to open a branch of the Central Bank of Ceylon in Bombay.

## WPC CHAIRMAN TALKS TO PRESS IN DELHI

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Jan 81 p 9

[Text]

JAN. 5.—The bureau of the World Peace Council, the highest panel of the council, will meet in Madagascar, from January 23 to 26 to plan mass actions against large-scale arms build-ups which threaten global peace. The agenda for the meeting will concentrate attention on the global struggle for disarmament and detente.

Talking to the Press in New Delhi today the president of the World Peace Council Mr Romesh Chandra, said the Madagascar meeting would highlight the perils of the arms build-ups in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf. In the latter, he said the last three months have seen the most massive concentration of arms.

All this posed a threat to countries of the region, India included. The American base at Diego Garcia was a serious threat despite whatever Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee might feel, Mr Chandra declared. In his opinion, USA was determined to frustrate all efforts to ensure that the Indian Ocean remained a zone of peace. That was why it was boycotting the conference called in Sri Lanka in May on this issue.

Mr Chandra said that the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the non-aligned countries to be held in India in February was of great importance and he hoped it would come out strongly against the stocking of sophisticated weapons in this region of the world.

The World Peace Council, he said, called for global support for the Indo-Soviet declaration adopted at the end of President Brezhnev's recent visit to New Delhi. Particularly welcome, he said, was the Soviet President's proposal for peace in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf regions.

He expressed concern over the continued military assistance to Pakistan by the USA, and the joint exercises conducted by the Chinese and Pakistani forces.

CSO: 4220



DELHI PLANS TO PROTEST WORLD BANK LOAN WITIDRAWAL

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Jan 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] The Government proposes to send a strong protest to the World Bank against its decision to cancel the \$250 million loan for the Thal and Hazira fertilizer units.

Information received from Washington has confirmed reports that the World Bank has refused to extend the time-limit for the loan on the basis of allegations that the selection of foreign consultants was rigged.

However, official communications from the World Bank cancelling the loan is yet to be received. The Government is awaiting an official World Bank communication for formulating its response to the controversial decision.

PM's Remark

Speaking in Calcutta on Sunday, Mrs Gandhi called the decision of the Bank as an "interference" in the country's internal matters.

The matter has been discussed at the highest level in the Government. Finance Minister R Venkataraman is likely to despatch soon a communication to the World Bank protesting against its attempts to impose its will on the Government in the matter of selection of consultants.

The Government holds the view that the World Bank has no authority or right to dictate to a recipient country the terms or procedures for selection of consultants for a project coming up with its assistance. The World Bank decision, the Government has noted, will not only delay construction of the two gas-based fertilizer projects but also disrupt the entire work schedule.

In the meantime the Government has begun looking for alternative sources for funding the two projects. Though it is not easy for the Government to earmark foreign exchange for the two projects in view of the current tight foreign exchange position, it is determined not to submit to the Bank pressures even if that means further delay in their construction.

The Petroleum and Chemicals Ministry has made it clear that the choice of consultants, even though not according to the recommendations of the expert committees, was fair and in the best interests of the country and the industry.

In the Ministry's opinion the World Bank has allowed itself to be influenced by the wide publicity given to the Government decision and expert committee recommendations as a result of the "trade war" between rival companies involved in the deal. Instead of judging the issue on its merits, the Bank has accepted the version of the promoters of firms which lost the contract.

The Ministry sources said that the World Bank decision notwithstanding, the projects would not be shelved.

Meanwhile Janata party general secretary Subramaniam Swamy, MP, on Monday charged that the decision about the consultancy contract for the Thal Vaishet and Hazira fertiliser projects was the "biggest scandal" of the present Government and demanded a full-fledged enquiry under the Commission of Inquiry Act.

In a statement before leaving for USA, Mr Swamy said that the six technical expert committees, set up during the period from November 1976 to December 1979, had all strongly and unanimously recommended that the Thal Vaishet project go to C F Braun.

One expert committee set up in 1980 by Mrs Gandhi's Government had also unanimously favoured the Braun, he added.

Mr Swamy claimed that even the Finance Minister, the Petroleum Minister and the Agriculture Minister had expressed themselves for Braun in a note to the Cabinet.

CSO: 4420

## PLANNING COMMISSION PRUNES STATES' OUTLAYS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Jan 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] The share of States and Union Territories in the sixth Five-Year Plan has been fixed at Rs 49,200 crores after the finalisation of their individual plans by the Planning Commission.

Of this, the outlay of the 19 States accounts for Rs 47,554 crores and that of Union Territories Rs 1,646 crores. Though the total sixth plan outlay has been originally fixed at Rs 90,000 crores, Planning Minister N D Tiwari had recently indicated the possibility of a marginal increase.

In the course of the two-month exercise, the Commission allowed some States to increase their outlay on specific heads but by and large they were pruned drastically. The Commission sources explained that the main criterion was the priority of programmes.

In the case of West Bengal, it is pointed out, investment for agricultural finance institutions was increased to Rs 600 crores as against the State's demand for Rs 570 crores. The outlay for social welfare programmes for the State was also raised by Rs 16 crores to Rs 925 crores.

Similarly a working group had recommended allocation of Rs 29.50 crores for a scheme for welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. On the basis of new priorities, this has been raised to Rs 32 crores, according to Commission sources.

On the basis of the guidelines set by the Commission, the State Plans will have more emphasis on the development of agriculture and allied services which have high employment generation potential in the rural areas. Irrigation and flood control, power generation, minerals, transport and communication are other sectors with higher priority in the State Plans.

In the discussions with the Chief Ministers, Mr Tiwari is learnt to have stressed the need for speedy implementation of schemes which increase employment opportunities, particularly in rural areas.

During the finalisation of State plans, the Commission also emphasised that schemes for reducing the incidence of poverty should be speedily implemented.

In this regard it was pointed out that certain area-specific-beneficiary oriented schemes have been adopted to improve the living conditions of the weaker sections of the community.

These include drought-prone areas programme, desert development programme, small farmers development agency programme, integrated rural development programme, hill areas programme and tribal areas programme.

Special programmes are being included in the sixth Plan for development of backward areas as well as for the benefit of underprivileged sections of the society, including scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

#### Concentration of Wealth

Another consideration before the Planning Commission in finalising the State Plans was reduction in concentration of wealth. For this a number of schemes have been taken up. These include progressive taxation, regulation of monopolies and restrictive trade practices, ceiling on land holdings and large investments in public sector, in power, transport and industry.

The Planning Minister is understood to have emphasised full resource mobilisation to enable proper funding of larger State Plans. The areas indicated are rationalisation of power tariffs and better management of State electricity boards, rationalisation of bus fares and revision of irrigation cess particularly in areas which have given higher income to farmers through command area development.

CSO: 4420

## GAUHATI HIGH COURT RULES ON AGENCY NEWS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Gauhati, Jan 6. The Division Bench of Gauhati High Court, consisting of Mr Justice K. M. Lahiri and Mr Justice B. L. Hansaria today directed the Assam Government that news received from PTI and UNI, might be allowed to be published without diluting them or commenting upon them, unless the Director of Information and Public Relations, Assam found that the news items would affect public order, report PTI and UNI.

Delivering the judgment on the stay matter on the petitions filed on January 2 on behalf of the management of Assam Tribune group of newspapers, the Assam Journalists Association and few other journalists' associations, which had challenged the enforcement of the Assam Special Powers (Press) Act 1960, the Division Bench also directed the Director of Information and Public Relations, Assam, to give reasons in writing for refusing publication of news and views on news items.

The Division Bench directed the Assam Tribune and the Dainik Asom not to publish matters connected with or relating to the current agitation over the alleged presence of foreign nationals in the State and related matters. The Bench also directed the two newspapers not to publish matters affecting public order.

The Assam Government enforced the Act on December 23 last year to prevent or combat publication of matters in printing presses which might create communal disharmony among the people of Assam. The Act has been enforced on the Assam Tribune and the Dainik Asom published from here.

Enforcement of the Act has empowered the Government to scrutinize all printing matters before publication by the Director of Information and Public Relations.

Counsel for the petitioners, Mr J. C. Medhi, said the Assam Tribune and the Dainik Asom were not allowed to publish some news items circulated by PTI and UNI, while the same items were published by different newspapers in Assam and outside the State without restriction.

The Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society has expressed concern over the Assam Government assuming special powers to enforce pre-censorship of news and comment. Preservation of law and order and maintenance of communal harmony are matters which are properly and adequately covered under the existing criminal and civil laws, the Society said in a statement.

CSO: 4220

## DETAILS OF ASSAM'S IMMIGRANT PROBLEM TOLD

## 'Foreigners' Come Handy in Assam

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Jan 81, pp 1, 9

[Article by Manash Ghosh]

[Text]

THE intensity of the anti-foreigner sentiments and the wave of sub-nationalism have reduced, but not stemmed the quiet influx from the adjoining Bangladesh into Assam. Over the decades, such surreptitious immigration has helped the Assamese by providing them with cheap imported labour and not many Assamese are yet mentally prepared to forgo the advantage altogether.

The flow of immigrants has been continuing for eight decades now and has fit excellently into the schemes of ambition and welfare of both the influential and the ordinary Assamese. Even today many of them, including politicians, landowners, intellectuals, bureaucrats and, of course, contractors—chief protagonists of the movement sweeping the State—have an ambivalent attitude towards the influx problems. Some are directly abetting infiltration. Some prefer to keep silent. Publicly, however, they are all very vocal against it, and some have gone to the extent of advocating the absurd idea that the 221-km Assam-Bangladesh border should be fenced off to stop immigration.

The reasons are obvious. The short-term benefits accruing from

infiltration are so alluring that long-term consequences are ignored. The fear of being overwhelmed by Muslim immigrants has always haunted the Assamese, especially

since 1987, when the Muslim League Ministry of Mr. Sadiqul Haque encouraged Muslim immigration to turn Assam into a Muslim-majority State. But to the influential Assamese, it has never been the proverbial beggar, as it made out to be, because of their purely selfish interests. Officials and contractors have welcomed immigrants (mostly Muslims, because the Hindus are averse to hard manual labour) who are still cheap, diligent and disciplined, in contrast to local labourers who are expensive and trade union-minded.

## MUSLIM LOBBY

Tough manual work in Assam is no longer the monopoly of Biharis—who are also opting for aggressive trade unionism. At Panchgram, near Sivasagar, where a big paper mill is under construction and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has undertaken exploratory drilling, most of the workmen are hapless peasants from Bangladesh. The district administration is aware of their presence, but is afraid to act for fear of the strong Muslim lobby in Cachar.

Many contractors are converting their predominantly Bihari labour force into a mixed one, with Bangladeshis forming the larger part. The demand for Bangladeshi labour has spread to the neighbouring States of Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland, from where contractors and their agents go to Assam to recruit labourers. In Mizoram and Manipur, a good percentage of the road construction workers, even of the Border Roads Task Force, is from Bangladesh. The Khasi Nagas of Nagaland have hired hundreds of Mus-

lim illegal immigrants for agricultural work in the area adjoining Sivasagar district.

Even a former Chief Minister—a strong supporter of the current movement—privately admitted that many sections of the Assamese society stood to gain from infiltration. Settlement officials helped infiltrators to gain possession of newly-reclaimed land or encroached on Government land for a consideration. Contractors employ them because they want less pay and can manage at incredibly low levels of consumption, helping the employer to keep costs low.

Contractors, seeking to please politicians for personal gains, create vote banks for them by settling the families of their labour force in particular areas. Many of them have a labour force of 5,500 to 8,000 each. Government officials do not create problems because they also benefit in numerous ways. The "Alls and coolies" (tea garden labourers) always brought votes for the Congress and the same thing is true for the CPI(M), which has gained ground in Assam mainly through the influx of Bengali Hindu refugees and Hindu infiltrators from Bangladesh, according to the former Chief Minister.

Forests in Assam have suffered tremendously because of immigration, both before and after Partition. Vast tracts of unclassified forest and large chunks of the 15,000 sq km of the State's reserve forest area have disappeared because of encroachment. Disarmament officials recall how leaders of all political parties have openly encouraged encroachment and repeatedly intervened on behalf of



the encroachers. Eviction was stayed on the plea that the encroachers were poor and landless; cut-off dates were periodically updated to accommodate more encroachers.

Landers have built facilities, such as schools and health and animal husbandry centres, in reserve forests and even awarded prizes to encroachers who grow record paddy and hand it over as levy for the Government's procurement drive. Intensive cultivation of sugarcane by encroachers on a vast stretch of reserve forest land has led to the setting up of a sugar factory. All this attracts more encroachers. "Politicians assure them that as long as they vote for the right man, they won't

be disturbed. Many of the present leaders have risen to prominence in this way", according to a senior Forest Department official.

The plain tribals have now turned into the worst encroachers. They clear patches of forest land and sell them to infiltrators from Bangladesh and Nepal. This has become a thriving racket.

The State Government's indifference to the problem is best illustrated by Goalpara, which has a 147 km border with Bangladesh with traditional infiltration routes. Between 1961 and 1971, Goalpara has had a 44% population growth, the largest for a decade in Assam, caused largely by infiltration. About 17 km of the border is riverine, with numerous channels of the Brahmaputra, interspersed with vast sandy chars which surface and disappear every monsoon, forming the natural watershed between Goalpara and Bangladesh. The chars, comprising 25% of Goalpara's land mass, are inhabited by nearly 30% of the district's population of three million, and 80% of them are Muslims.

Life in the chars is extremely difficult. For six months in a year, their inhabitants have to battle the ravages of the Brahmaputra. Whatever is grown is inadequate to sustain the large population. The infiltrators, most of whom are skilled boatmen, row further upstream, heading for the numerous immigrant concentrations in Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Dibsagar and North Lakhimpur.

In this vast sandy expanse, there is no trace of administration. Even junior officials scarcely visit these areas, though they may be posted at Dhubri, the district headquarters, for 10 years. The administration knows little about the char

people and their constant movement. The char inhabitants—a poor and desperate lot—have no respect for authority.

#### POLICE AFRAID

Police officials are afraid to send their men there because in the past char men have attacked even the Border Security Force contingents. Police officials alleged that politicians instigate them against the police so that the administration is kept out and they (the politicians) can control these areas through their "dewans" and "matibars" (influential headmen). Some of these headmen own up to 100 acres of land and get favours from politicians for securing votes.

Administration is lax in the four border police stations of Dhubri, Golaghat, Mankachar and South Balmara, where infiltration continues even today. These are extremely backward places, with the Muslim part of the population varying between 40% and 50%. The imaginary border runs through thickly-populated areas, as at Mankachar, where the doors of many Indian houses open into Bangladesh territory. Trans-border smuggling is rampant. Crossing over is no problem. Mankachar teems with Bangladeshis who come there for shopping.

Posting to these thornys is lucrative and, according to the former Chief Minister, politicians and officials are bribed heavily for the purpose. Many of the 180-odd watchposts of the Assam police on the infiltration routes have turned into "dens of corruption". Many are severely short of staff. The men seldom take actions complaining that it is impossible to check infiltration with the strength of their force.

Mr P. C. Das, Inspector General of Police, denies the allegation that the diaries of these posts contain few entries of apprehension and detection of infiltration, but he admits that the widely varying figures of Bangladeshis being detected indicate inconsistency in police action. The figures for 1973, 1975 and 1977 are 1,000, 18,084 and 3,074, respectively.

#### COMMUNAL OVERTONE

In Cachar, the infiltration problem has a communal overtone as 55% of the district's population are Hindus, mostly Bengali refugees, concentrated largely in and

around the towns, while Muslims, accounting for 42%, are the majority in villages. Both communities encourage infiltration on communal lines. Muslims who largely control the district's economy and politics (six of the 15 MLAs are Muslims and so are the heads of all local government bodies) fear that the large influx of Hindus will turn Cachar into another Tripura. Some Muslim MLAs have already demanded job reservation for Muslims on the basis of the population ratio.

But the infiltration of Muslims far surpasses that of Hindus, since many Muslims enter Cachar with the intention of going to interior areas elsewhere in Assam. Even in September, 1980, the BSF intercepted at Karimganj town a Bangladeshi family of 14, including babies, bound for Sivasagar in a taxi.

In Meghalaya, infiltration is not as serious a problem as in Assam. The Chief Minister, Mr B. B. Lyndek, stresses his opposition of borrowing the issue from Assam for political gains. More than two-thirds of the State's 432-km border with Bangladesh has rough hilly terrain which makes infiltration difficult.

But the interesting feature is that most of those who infiltrate into Meghalaya and Bangladeshi Garo and Hajong tribals who have their own clansmen in India. Like Muslims and Hindus, they also get sympathy and support from their people and merge easily with the tribal population. It is common among officials in the border areas to employ Bangladeshi tribals as servants or farm hands as they demand low wages and are easily available. A Garo MLA, who campaigns against Muslim infiltration, has infiltrators among his farm hands.

Infiltration of Muslims is generally confined to the plains, where their population is large. Hindus who enter through the Cachar or Cooch Behar borders usually head for Shillong, which has a large concentration of Hindus—Bengali pre-Partition immigrants and a sizable refugee population of the post-Partition days. Getting a Government job was not difficult, until a few years ago, with help from friends and relatives in various departments.

## How Tripura Gets Its New "Citizens"

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Jan 81, pp 1,9

[Article by Manash Ghosh]

[Text]

**THE** influx in Tripura across its loosely-guarded border with Bangladesh continues unabated, despite the recent massacre of Bengalis and the "foreign national" controversy all over the north-east. And no wonder. The entire population of Tripura including many in the administration, are sympathetic to infiltrators. All means—foul or fair—are adopted to assimilate them and the granting of citizenship has turned into a thriving racket.

Officially, however, there is no infiltration. The Chief Minister, Mr Nripen Chakravarty, says that the impression is "baseless". But all one has to do is visit any of the numerous border points shared with Sylhet, Comilla, Noakhali, Chittagong and the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. Bangladeshis walk across the 840-km-long Tripura-Bangladesh border every day. Even at Agartala, the State capital, a steady stream of people crosses over daily through the Dohamari Ghat and Pyarimohan Bagan points. Wide gaps—even up to 32 km—between two Indian border outposts and perfunctory border patrolling because of the inadequate strength of the BSF have made the Tripura-Bangladesh border vulnerable to infiltration and smuggling.

The influx had always gathered momentum whenever there were communal riots, political unrest and economic distress across the border. In fact, this has wrought havoc with the demography of Tripura reducing over a dozen tribal groups—the original inhabitants of the State—into an insignificant minority. Its meagre population of 600,000 in 1951 has shot up to over 2 million. The population growth between 1961 and 1981, according to the State Planning Cell, is going to be 111%.

No one in Tripura dares make a move to stem this as all sections stand to gain from infiltration in different ways. Most families in Tripura have relatives across the border; many even have property. They adopt all means to secure jobs, or admission into colleges for relatives and friends from the other side. Political parties have their own calculations. The Congress for over a decade encouraged the influx to strengthen its predominantly Bengali base and to neutralize the Communist stronghold among tribals.

Thousands of East Pakistani refugees who came after 1964 were enlisted as voters for the 1967 elections though none of them had been given citizenship. In the elections, the Congress wrested both the Parliamentary seats from CPI and almost snuffed out the Communists from the Assembly. Though regimes have changed, the tradition continues. The economic and human problems in Bangla-

desh have been causing the influx to continue while the CPI(M) Government's efforts to help the rural poor encourages the flow of the pauperized landless. Enrolling some in the Shramik Krishak Samity of the CPI(M) ensures a steady income for eight months under the food-for-work programme.

There is little difference in the stand of the Amra Bangali and the CPI(M) on the infiltration issue. The Amra Bangali views infiltration as a curse of the partition and maintains that infiltrators are India's responsibility. The CPI(M) so far has done nothing to stem the flow primarily because this might make it unpopular among the Bengalis. In fact its actions have given the impression across the border that those who are willing to come will not be hounded out and that almost all the rungs of the State's political leadership and administration will help them to be absorbed in Tripura.

The partition has evolved a million in Tripura which favours infiltration on a large scale. The overwhelming refugee content in the State's population has always acted as a big psychological pull for the minorities living in Bangladesh to come and settle there. A large percentage of the State's population, irrespective of religion,

still has firm moorings in Bangladesh. From Sabroom in the south to Dharmanagar in the north, the entire State is inhabited by the people from bordering districts of Bangladesh. Their dialects, habits, customs, temperament and distinctive clanish features have not changed since their coming to Tripura. For a Bangladeshi assimilation in Tripura is no problem.

### TASK FORCE

The Mobile Task Force, a wing of the State police which was set up at the Centre's instance after the liberation of Bangladesh for

detecting and deporting Bangladeshi nationals, has become almost defunct because of political and bureaucratic interference. "The Government does not want us to function" was the complaint, voiced in a refrain by the MTFF men. The feeling in the force is that it should be centrally controlled and independent of the State Government.

The MTFF, since 1973, has detected and deported over 30,000 Bangladeshis from Tripura. But this figure, by the MTFF's own admission is too small compared with the large presence of Bangladeshis in the State. The MTFF's assessment is that only about 15% of the infiltrators are detected which does not touch even the fringe of the problem. And 80% of those expelled sneak back into Tripura. It is mostly the poor who get pushed back. The well-to-do go undetected by using their money and influence.

Handicapped by a severe shortage of men (a staff of 33 against the sanctioned strength of 50), vehicles, arms and uniform, the MTFF's job is made more difficult when Ministers and MLAs blatantly interfere in its work. Ministers and MLAs have recommended grantings of citizenship certificates even in such cases where the alien status of infiltrators has been established. An influential doctor, known to be close to the Chief Minister, also issues birth certificates to people from Bangladesh and no one dares challenge their veracity.

The Superintendent of Police, MTFF, was recently transferred since he had questioned the facts of the certificates issued by the high-ups. He had protested against political interference and also against engaging the force in jobs other than its own. Although the Centre bears the entire cost of this force, about Rs 8 lakhs annually, its services are frequently requisitioned by the State Government for maintaining law and order as is being done for the last six months.

### FINGER IN THE PIE

It is also the administration—from the district magistrate down to the gram pradhan—which is involved in this racket. Recently, the MTFF detected about 50 Bangladeshis some of whom were fresh graduates and post-graduates from Dacca university. They had all along studied in Bangladesh.

Some had passed out from the university as late as 1976 and 1978. But all of them had managed to procure birth certificates from the district magistrate, stating that they were all born in India and had come to India before March 26, 1971, the cut-off date entitling one to acquire Indian citizenship. The district magistrate of West district alone issued about 67,000 citizenship certificates between 1972 and 1978. At present, 120 citizenship certificates are being issued daily in the three districts of the State.

MIF officers alleged that Indian citizenship certificates are stolen from the district magistrate's office, with official connivance, and are sold to the highest bidder from Bangladesh. The 1971 citizenship register was seized from the District Magistrate's office for investigation. The family registers of gram sabhas are manipulated by the panchayat functionaries for enlisting the new arrivals as old residents of the village. For Tripura politicians and bureaucrats, allotting seats in medical and engineering colleges or securing Government jobs for their kith and kin from Bangladesh is a common practice.

More than 90% of the infiltrators in Tripura are Hindus. The rest are Muslims who infiltrate into the bordering Muslim pockets of Dharmanagar, Kailashahar and Sonamura where they live under the "cover" of their own community. Like the Hindus, they too are difficult to trace as they

mingled easily with the Muslim population.

Many in Tripura hold dual citizenship—both of India and Bangladesh. There are also hundreds of families which crossed into erstwhile East Pakistan during the 1965 war, stayed there for over 10 to 14 years, and again returned to India only recently. Some of them had even served in the Army and in the Government in Bangladesh.

The influx has resulted in soaring unemployment and land prices. In 1967, the State had about 15,000 registered unemployed, more than half of whom were educated. Today the figure is over 70,000. Employment opportunities are few because of complete absence of industry in the State. And increased smuggling and Naxalite activities are the direct manifestations of frustration among the growing ranks of educated unemployed. The employment situation in recent months has become worse with hundreds of young Bengali residents of Assam, unable to get jobs there, are flocking to Tripura for employment.

#### LAND HUNGER

Never before had land hunger in Tripura been so acute. Encroachment of khas and forest land is rampant. The problem is most serious in the Sadar subdivision and also in Udaipur. Tripura has a long tradition of encroachment of Government land being made eventual owners which is partly acting as a catalyst to draw the landless from Bangladesh.

Encroachment is also causing a fast shrinking of the forest area

in the State. More than 13% of the area of the west hill reserve forest has been lost as about 450 families have come and settled inside this reserve. About 60 families made the initial encroachment after 1972 from the adjoining Noakhali district. The sal and garjan trees are being felled to encroach more land. The valuable timber is being sold at a premium in Bangladesh. Mr Nripen Chakravarty, following a representation from the encroachers, ordered that the encroached forest area should be released to these families.

The infiltration has given such a boost to land prices in recent years that it exceeds even that of the metropolitan cities. Land is sold for Rs 5 lakhs an acre in the tiny southern border town of Belonia having only a few thousand population. An acre of agricultural land costs Rs 30,000 though the annual profit from it does not exceed Rs 700. The population of Belonia subdivision was 40,000 in 1951. Today it is about 200,000. In Agartala, an acre of good commercial plot costs over Rs 20 lakhs. The price rise is mainly because the minorities living in eastern Bangladesh are investing in land in Tripura. A plot or a house in Tripura is to them a future provision which will give them a footing in India where they plan to come eventually and live permanently.

### They Keep Pouring Into West Bengal

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jan 81, pp 1,9

[Article by Manash Ghosh]

[Text] The problem of infiltration from Bangladesh is, among the four Indian bordering States, now most serious in West Bengal as it has the longest (2,160 km) and the most inadequately manned international border in the country. The agitation in Assam and the indifference of the State Government are encouraging further infiltration.

The Government's attitude appears to be to pretend as if the problem does not exist. Meanwhile, the population of illegal immigrants increases almost daily and its impact on various facets of life is already being felt in the border areas.

A combination of factors is responsible for the current influx into West Bengal which is undoubtedly larger than the combined flow into Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura. The infiltrators are predominantly Hindus with the Muslims, including

stranded Biharis in Bangladesh, forming a sizable percentage. With the flow into Assam and Meghalaya having dropped because of the current agitation and an "insecure" and oversaturated Tripura having very little land to spare, West Bengal is now drawing most of the infiltrators, especially the Hindus.

The assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, followed by replacement of secularism-one of the fundamental principles of the Bangladesh State policy--by Islamic tenets, open Government support for Islamic revivalism, arbitrary application of enemy property regulations in case of the property of many Hindus alleged discrimination in employment opportunities and a host of other human problems have made the Hindus psychologically insecure in Bangladesh.

Many of them have already grown roots in India through about a crore of East Pakistani refugees who have been settled in West Bengal since the partition. They have their own people here as Ministers, MLAs, senior officials in the bureaucracy, in business and professions whose fondness for their brethren in Bangladesh is well-known. Like Tripura, most of them help the immigrants--some openly, others quietly--irrespective of ideology and status.

The nine-month long liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971 when over 8 million refugees, mostly Hindus, had taken shelter in West Bengal (over 200,000 of them, according to a conservative estimate, had stayed back in the State) had also helped to strengthen their roots. Many during their stay had bought property, started business, secured jobs and even got married. The stay had made them well conversant with conditions in West Bengal. Many among those who had gone back to Bangladesh after the liberation returned to West Bengal for settling down permanently, in spite of the friendly Indo-Bangladesh ties and the brief Mujib interregnum when secularism was one of the fundamental State principles of Bangladesh.

Like in Assam and Tripura, there is a flow of job-hungry and indigent people looking for low-paid manual jobs. Left extremists in Bangladesh who have close liaison with the Naxalites in West Bengal, also cross over for shelter and joint action.

A measure of the extent of the problem is the fact that not only Bangladeshis are entering illegally through numerous points of this vast border, but a large percentage of even those who come with valid travel documents never return to Bangladesh. According to the BSF since 1972 more than 75,000 Bangladeshis who entered India through the Haldia-Durgam checkpoint in Bongaon, have not gone back. The figure for the Hilli checkpoint in West Durgam for the last two years is 115. Police say that almost all these Bangladeshi nationals are untraceable since Indian addresses given in their travel documents are fictitious. But most of them, the police believe, are staying in and around Calcutta.

And how many are entering West Bengal illegally is anybody's guess. In November 1980 the BSF

had intercepted and pushed back 884 Bangladeshis, including Biharis, in the short nine-km border stretch under the supervision of the Hilli checkpoint. This interception, by the BSF's own admission, is less than 10% of the actual infiltration across the Hilli border almost the whole of which is undemarcated. The Bangladesh Hilli station is hardly 15 yards from the Indian Hilli town. Twelve Up and Down trains ply through this Bangladesh station daily. According to the BSF, trains are deliberately slowed down at night beyond the outer signal to enable Bangladeshis to detrain and cross into India. About four km of the railway track here forms the international border.

Right on the border at Hilli, a settlement has sprung up in recent years, widely known as the "Bihari gully" where Bihari families, including those from Bangladesh, have come and settled. According to the BSF, Biharis illegally crossing into India get night shelter here. Some influential local panchayat functionaries also provide cover to infiltrators. It is also alleged that the Bangladeshis can

sometimes bribe their way through into India.

The Islampur sub-division in West Durgam a narrow corridor strip of less than 10 km wide at some places separating Bangladesh and the Purnea district of Bihar, is one of the main infiltration routes for Biharis who are still heavily concentrated at Saidpur and the other neighbouring north Bangladesh towns. This route is preferred since this is the shortest and the safest (because of the large Bihari Muslim presence in the entire sub-division) way to Bihar. Touts bring the Biharis from across to Islampur town openly to take them to the neighbouring Bihar town of Kishanganj, only a few kilometers away, for dispersal. The West Durgam Police is aware of this but prefers not to act.

On the 31-km riverine border of Murshidabad where both Indian and Bangladeshi fishermen row, the BSF intercepted and sent back about 300 Bangladeshis, including

85 Biharis, between January and November



last year. But the ma-

jority of the infiltrators escape interception as the BSF does not have speed boats for patrolling this riverine border.

On the 200-km densely-populated Nadia border, the BSF intercepted 2,102 Bangladeshis in the last two years. Muslim infiltrators were almost double that of the Hindus since there are numerous Muslim pockets on the Indian side. Even 500 Arakanese Muslim refugees who had taken shelter in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh in 1978 were intercepted by the BSF while trying to cross the Nadia border.

In Bongaon sub-division in 24 Parganas, almost the entire 70-km border has busy infiltration routes for people coming from Jessore, Khulna and Faridpur. Large numbers of Bangladeshis and Biharis, in groups of 20s and 30s, cross the border and come to Bongaon town for onward journey to Calcutta. Sometimes they have been caught by the police while being transported at night in reserved buses.

In Cooch Behar, the problem is more complex because of the 120 Indian and Bangladesh enclaves across each other's border. The enclaves are cut off from the mainland. The population of these enclaves have to depend on the surrounding people of the neighbouring country for their living and they float freely all along the 350-km long Cooch Behar border.

giving little cue to the BSF to distinguish Indians from the Bangladeshis. Criminals operate freely. There is virtually no administration in these enclaves. The border outposts of the BSF in this district are widely separated from one another.

Both the CPI(M) and Forward Block, the two firmly entrenched left parties in the district encourage infiltrators indirectly for gaining numerical strength. They help "selective infiltration" by enticing like-minded people, using employment under the Food-for-Work scheme as a bait. Officials said hundreds of Bangladeshis had been enrolled as voters in many constituencies for the 1978 panchayat election and last year's parliamentary election.

Besides, smuggling has attracted many Hindus from Bangladesh to come and settle in Siliguri. At least six new colonies have sprung up around Siliguri in the last seven years many of whose residents are Bangladeshis.

Infiltration has given rise to various kinds of tension, often leading to violence. On the sandy chars of Par Shibpur in Murshidabad nine people were killed by 400 armed men who resented their settling on their land. About 200 Bangladesh scheduled caste families had come in 1978 and settled on the chars owned by Muslims. The district administration was aware of their presence and the growing tension in the area.

Suddenly, an armed mob attacked the Bangladeshis and burnt down their huts. The incident immediately assumed a communal overtone. RSS leaders rushed to the scene to politicise the issue. Following the incident, the Bangladeshi families were scattered and none in the administration knows where they are today.

In the bordering thana of Habibpur in Malda district, several hundred tough Namasudra refugee families were settled by the Government in 1961, hoping that they would help to secure the border. But this hope has been belied. This Namasudra concentration is today the vanguard of the Naxalite movement in the district. Naxalites in Bangladesh are in close contact with their counterparts in the district. A large-scale influx of Namasudras has also occurred in Bongaon. 24 Parganas, Boyra-Bagda and Duttafulla are full of these illegal immigrants. Their shanties have also

come up on both sides of Jessore Road right up to Haridaspur checkpoint.

Senior officials say that the police are so busy with law and order and collecting political intelligence that detection of foreign nationals gets no priority. The Mobile Task Force does not have the effective strength in any district and has not been provided even with the basic minimum facility of transport. In Cooch Behar, for instance, the force has only six men for the detection job. But, MTF officers point out, even where Bangladeshi nationals have been detected Ministers, MLAs and even departmental secretaries have intervened and rescinded push-back orders on "humanitarian grounds".

## Wrong Policies All The Way

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 8 Jan 81, pp 1, 9

[Article by Manash Ghosh]

[Text]

**T**HERE are historical reasons for the continuation of the influx from Bangladesh into the eastern and north-eastern States. And the Government of India's policies, during and since partition, have indirectly served to encourage those across the border to come over.

Unlike in Punjab, there was no total exchange of population during the partition of Bengal. In both Bengals, a large minority stayed back. Relations between Hindus and Muslims were not marked as much by hatred and hostility as in

Punjab. Moreover, Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Noakhali largely calmed the communal passions roused by the riots in Calcutta and Noakhali.

Many belonging to the minority communities were firmly entrenched in their old countries. They owned land and property, enjoyed goodwill and had emotional attachment to their native villages and towns which they did not want to abandon.

But frequent communal riots between 1950 and 1970 in both coun-

tries destroyed their hopes. A riot in one country had repercussions in the other. (Since President Bhutto took over in Bangladesh, there has been no communal riot there and attempts to "avenge" Mordabad were put down firmly.) Minorities crossed over repeatedly in search of security in large numbers. In addition to the small groups which kept coming all the time. The three sharp peaks in migration from east Pakistan to eastern India were between 1960 and 1967, between 1964 and 1966 and in 1970. Many Muslims also left India in phases.

### POPULATION GROWTH

A study by the Registrar General of India, comparing the decadal growth in population of the four bordering States of India and Purnea district in Bihar (bordering East Pakistan) with that of East Pakistan between 1951 and 1961 gives an idea of the magnitude of the influx.

On the basis of census figures and notional growth of population, it was found that East Pakistan's population had been depleted by 21,69,000 Hindus and 1 million Muslims while there was a correspond-

ing rise of 21,69,000 Hindus and 1 million Muslims in the bordering areas of India. In Purnea, the Muslim population was up by 2,97,000.

In Shillong and Gauhati, one hears in official circles these days that the north-eastern States can no longer bear the burden of partition, especially that of the minorities in Bangladesh.

It is said that the minorities there should not hope for absorption in India since they had lived in the country of their choice for over 30 years and the neighbouring Indian States are crammed. The Centre's "indulgent" policy is blamed for the continuing influx.

"The Government of India seems to have given the impression to the minorities in Bangladesh that their right to cross over is inalienable. Hindus there believe that eventually, India will look after them", a senior official dealing with the refugee problem in north-eastern States said. "There are still 12 million of them there. The wrong impression should be dispelled".

What amazes one visiting the Indo-Bangladesh border is the cursory and inadequate manning of it. The border has a long history of neglect since partition.

For over five years after independence, the Government of India pursued an open-door policy when manning of the border was left to the States which hardly had the resources and expertise for the job. A former Inspector-General of Police of Assam recalled that Delhi could never size up the numerous problems of guarding the frontier. Men who decided matters in Delhi had even no idea about its topography. "To them, guarding the West Pakistan border was most important as war could break out there any moment. We kept repeating to Delhi that if the silent invasion along the Indo-East Pakistan border was not stopped, its cumulative effect would be disastrous for the region. But Delhi remained indifferent."

It somewhat woke up only when the problem of infiltration was highlighted by the figures of 1961 census and the 1962 Chinese aggression", another retired senior police official said.

Even now, the West Bengal and Tripura borders are severely undermanned. In West Bengal, a BSF battalion has to look after about 280 km of the border whereas in Punjab, a battalion's jurisdiction is not more than 80 km. While West Bengal with 2,160 km border has eight deployed battalions, Punjab with 560 km border has almost double the number. In Assam, a battalion's jurisdiction is within 130 km.

In West Bengal, a border outpost is usually manned by eight to nine men though a border outpost has to have at least 18 men. A patrol party usually consists of four men and cannot hope to patrol even once a day both the border flanks of an outpost. "A BOP should guard the border within its jurisdiction round the clock."

But with our present strength, this is impossible", commandant of a BSF battalion said.

In Tripura too, the BSF's strength is inadequate considering length of the border, the terrain and the problems of infiltration and smuggling. And its strength is further depleted when the State administration seeks its help for internal security. Once a BSF detachment is placed at the disposal of the State Government, it cannot return soon.

Two senior BSF officials said that it had become a "bad habit" with the State Governments of

the region to seek BSF's help even to deal with ordinary law and order situations. "This is bad both for manning the border and the morale of our force. For months they are tied down with jobs which are strictly speaking not their responsibility. The kind of policing that the BSF has now to do has raised fundamental questions about the role of the BSF."

One of the measures being suggested by senior officials in the north-east for stopping infiltration is the introduction of a full-proof birth and death register and maintenance of family lists with photographs in all the bordering and adjoining district. Another is the creation of a separate administration for border and char areas which now get scant attention from the district headquarters for their numerous problems.



## JANATA CHIEF TALKS TO PRESS IN AHMEDABAD

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Jan 81 p 7

[Text]

AHMEDABAD Jan 6.

The Janata chief, Mr. Chandra Shekhar charged today that the talk of a possible presidential system of Government in the country was nothing but "diversion tactics" of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi.

By this she wants to divert the people's attention away from the deterioration in price-line, law and order, communal situation and foreign exchange reserves, he told newsmen here.

**Farmers' Str:** Referring to the farmers' agitation, he said his party was ready to support it provided it had a say in it.

The agitation should be non-violent and its demands should not be against the national economy and interests.

Justifying the agitation, he asked what else a cryer could do when he had

to pay nearly double the price for agricultural inputs.

**Merger of parties:** The Janata leader said the doors of his party were open to any one coming without a proposal of parties merger or other pre-conditions.

Even the case of Mr. Raj Narain can be considered if and when he makes up his mind.

He said remobilisation of political forces could be the only alternative to Congress (I). "Mere conglomeration of leaders won't do now."

For such remobilisation the Janata Party could be a nucleus.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar said Mrs. Gandhi's Government would not last another year, as, according to him, "the people are getting disillusioned about Congress (I)."

Blaming the Prime Minister for not accepting the cooperation of Opposition

parties on major national issues, he said that on the contrary Mrs. Gandhi had alleged that she was not attended properly by the Opposition to express the Government's stand and policies towards them.

Myself, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee and Mr. Y. B. Chavan had written to her that we be allowed to negotiate with the Assam agitators. She wrote back that the Government was doing the job, you keep away.

The Janata leader said there should be a national round-table to evolve a consensus on issues like Assam crisis, press censorship in Assam or Moradabad. But she shirks her responsibility.

The Opposition "will not bow down to policies formed exclusively by persons like Mr. Zail Singh or Mr. Yogendra Mahwani," he said.—PTI.

## PRESIDENT CAUTIONS PUBLIC SECTOR ON INDIFFERENCE

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Jan 81 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan 6.

The President, Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddi today cautioned the public sector against an attitude of indifference and disregard of public accountability.

In an informal discussion with the Minister of Industry, Dr. Charanpaul Chansana, Deputy Minister, Mr. N. A. Sangma and senior officials of the Ministry at the Rashtrapati Bhavan this morning, the President cited the example of the steel industry, which highlighted the anomaly of public sector units.

The public sector plants continued to show losses and were unable to reach their rated capacity of production despite all inherent advantages whereas the lone private sector steel unit Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited, could achieve about 95 per cent of its rated capacity.

The President said while export efforts of India's major industries were commendable they could not forget

their obligations to the consumers within the country.

Mr. Reddi drew Dr. Chansana's attention to the continuing shortage of products like cement which was causing much hardship to the common people. He asked why in the wake of such heavy imports of cement it was not possible to set up more cement plants in the country.

Dr. Chansana informed the President that the problem of better management in public sector undertakings was receiving the attention of the Government. The Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure had already made some recommendations in this regard.

The Minister said it took about two or three years to set up a cement plant. He said as against a daily production of 7,500 tonnes of cement in Europe, India produced about 1,000 tonnes a day. The production rate in Japan was only about 750 tonnes a day.

The Minister assured the President that the interests of consumers would

be kept foremost while formulating the new licensing policy.

The Minister said the Industry Ministry had been providing guidance and assistance to the public sector units and these organisations had been increasing their exports in competitive markets abroad. They had now reached a position where they were counted among the best in their respective fields.

The President exhorted the management and staff of these undertakings not to be content with what they had achieved and urged them to strive hard for improving their performance in future.

Cheques Handled Earlier Dr. Chansana handed over to the President two cheques for over Rs. 10 crores as dividend to the Central Government from the public sector Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT).

The BHEL Chairman, Mr. E. L. Pari and HMT Chairman, Mr. S. Ramachandra were present on the occasion.

## ABDULLAH REAPPOINTED ENVOY TO SAUDI ARABIA

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jan 81 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 8.

The Director-General of Tamil Nadu Police, Mr. T. T. P. Abdullah, is being appointed for the second time as Ambassador to Saudi Arabia where he had served earlier with considerable distinction.

It is rarely, if ever, that the Government has sent the same person as Ambassador to a country for the second time. The appointment of Mr. Abdullah is thus seen as a special consideration shown to him.

After a stint in the External Affairs Ministry as Director of Security, Mr. Abdullah was sent as Ambassador to

Saudi Arabia before he reverted to his home State.

Mr. Abdullah took over as Director General of Police, on June 30, 1980 and on his attaining the age of superannuation, he was granted extension of service for six months from January 1, 1981.

Previously, he was Zonal Manager, Food Corporation of India and Chairman of Pullavan Transport Corporation, Madras. He had also been for some time Chairman of the Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Organisation set up by the Kerala Government.

## TAMIL NADU ESSENTIAL SERVICES ORDINANCE ISSUED

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jan 81 p 1

[Text]

MADRAS, Jan. 8.

On the eve of an one-day bandh in Madras and suburbs called by several trade unions on the B and C Mills issue, the Tamil Nadu Government has assumed powers to ban any strike in essential services, with a view to ensuring public safety and maintenance of supplies.

An ordinance issued by the Governor, Mr. Sadiq Ali, provides that refusal to work in any essential service (where strike is banned) will be an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term extending to one year or fine up to Rs. 2,000 or both.

**Penal Provision**

Any person who instigates or incites any other person to refuse to work in an essential service will also be liable to imprisonment for one year or fine up to Rs. 1,000 or both. A similar punishment may be imposed on any person extending financial aid for such illegal strikes in essential

services.

The above punishment is in addition to any disciplinary action that may be taken against the offender under the terms and conditions of his employment.

The ordinance called the Tamil Nadu Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance, 1981 has come into force with immediate effect and will cover the whole State.

Essential services have been defined to include any service connected with the supply of water or electricity, any transport service for the carriage of passengers or goods by motor vehicles, any service connected with public health and sanitation including hospitals and dispensaries, municipal corporation, municipal council or local authorities and any public services and post, connected with the affairs of the State.

The ordinance will also cover any other service which the State Government may declare to be an essential

service.

**Why Ordinance**

Official sources said the ordinance was not specifically directed against the bandh called for Friday, but the Government wanted to arm itself with powers to deal effectively with strikes in essential services, as there was no law at present for the purpose.

"Such a law is considered necessary in the context of the activities of certain persons employed in essential services", an explanatory statement attached to the ordinance says.

Similar ordinances were promulgated twice previously — once in May 1978 in the context of a strike by transport workers and again in July 1979 in the wake of an agitation by policemen and NGOs. However, on both the occasions, the Government allowed the ordinances to lapse following strong protests from trade unions and Opposition parties.

## BIRENDRA SINGH OPENS KARAKA PACT REVIEW

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 8 Jan 81 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 7.—India told Bangladesh today that its "outright rejection and condemnation" of the Indian proposal for augmenting the dry season flow of the Ganga amounted to going against "the letter and spirit" of the 1977 Farakka agreement, reports UNI.

In his speech at the inaugural session of the second Inter-Governmental meeting to review the 1977 Interim agreement, the Union Agriculture Minister, Mr Birendra Singh, leader of the Indian delegation, pointed out that the main thrust of the agreement was at solving the problem bilaterally.

"Unfortunately", Mr Birendra Singh said, "Bangladesh from the beginning started to dilute and after this approach".

Referring to Bangladesh's demand that the Joint Rivers Commission should be given a fresh mandate to continue its exercises to evolve a long-term solution to the problem of augmentation of Ganga waters, he said that given the basic approach reflected in the Bangladesh review report, "we do not see any purpose being served by asking the JRC to continue with its exercises".

"Bangladesh has prima facie rejected India's proposal and in its report has unilaterally condemned it, going to the extent of saying that it is untenable, unnecessary and outside the scope of the agreement".

The Bangladesh side took the position that the completion of the work of the commission might take decades and no time-bound commitment could be made. Given this basic attitude, any decision to ask the commission to continue with the work on augmentation could only lead to "endless discussions for decades", the Minister said.

"On the other hand our problems are more pressing and

urgent. We can hardly afford to waste time in such futile open-ended discussion. This inescapable reality must be fully reflected in the final review report".

Mr Singh said India could surely not be expected to agree with the Bangladesh stance that the latter had a historical right to the entire natural flow of the river. This view, if accepted, would be putting a veto on the rights of upper riparian nations to a reasonable and equitable share of waters of common rivers for irrigation and other developmental purposes. He pointed out that 70-80% of its length—1,200 km—of the main channel of the Ganga flows through India. With its principal tributaries, it flows through 8,000 km of Indian territory. Compared to this, the length of this river in Bangladesh (excluding the common boundary of 122 km) is a mere 141 km.

Mr Singh said India entered into the 1977 agreement in a spirit of goodwill and cooperation sacrificing its legitimate rights and interests in the hope that a scheme for cooperative development of the abundant water resources of the region would be available to the two countries.

This hope, he alleged, had been dashed by the Bangladesh side. He made from the other side without any supporting data it had been claimed, for instance that salinity in the Khulna area had gone up due to diminution of flow in the Ganga and that the level of agricultural production in that part of Bangladesh had gone down. Publishing material available in Bangladesh disproved both the claims, the Minister added.

## NEW ROK ENVOY URGES STRONGER INDIA-ROK TIES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jan 81 p 9

[Text]

**NEW DELHI, Jan. 6.**—The hope that relations between India and South Korea would continue to grow and expand was expressed here yesterday by Mr Chung Tai Kim, while presenting his credentials as his country's new Ambassador to India to the President.

The Korean people, he said, remembered with deep appreciation the invaluable assistance given to his country by the Government and the people of India in the post-Korean war years. "Friendly understanding by India of our cause and peaceful reunification of the country has been and will continue to be a source of inspiration to the people of the Republic of Korea".

Mr Kim recalled that Indo-Korean contacts went back to as early as the eighth century when "a Korean monk, Haecho, visited India overcoming the challenges of distance". He wrote a travelogue entitled "Notes on the five regions of India" and gave an impetus to further exchanges, most important of these being the visits of Buddhist monks. It was gratifying to note the new Korean envoy said, that a close and traditional cultural link had been maintained between India and Korea which had enriched their culture and served as the basis of their intimate relationship.

Cultural ties were not the only links binding the two countries. "Today, we are pleased to note the steady growth of trade and economic cooperation between our two countries. Korea will continue to

value highly the expansion of our relations in this field and will make her best effort to realize the great potential of these ties" the Ambassador said.

Mr Kim, a career diplomat, replaces Mr Mun Suk Lee who has returned to his country to assume charge of the Ministry for Reunification. Mr Kim, prior to taking up his present post, had been an Assistant Minister both in the Ministries of Economic and Political Affairs of his country. He was the Korean Ambassador in Portugal before coming to New Delhi.

CSO: 4220



## DRIVE AGAINST DACOITS, NAXALITES DEEMED NECESSARY

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Jan 81 p 7

[Text]

BHOPAL Jan 6.

Naxalites in the southern parts of Madhya Pradesh and dacoits in the north are posing a threat to security in the State.

The naxalites whenever hunted down in the adjoining Andhra Pradesh, cross over to Bastar, their hideout. The Divisional Commissioner, Mr. Raghunath Prasad Singh, and Collector Mr. Hrishikesh Mishra, are of the view that unless this threat is tackled now, it may prove to be serious.

The Bailadilla iron ore mining area has become an ideal place for the naxalites, to enlist men and raise funds. The authorities are taking all precautions to prevent them from setting up a base in Bastar.

The dacoits in the northern part of the State continue to be active despite police claims to the contrary. Reports of dacoities continue to come in.

A joint command of Uttar Pradesh,

Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh whose jurisdiction is the area of operation for the dacoits is yet to come up. The Chief Ministers of U.P., M.P., Rajasthan, Bihar and Haryana are meeting in Lucknow on January 9 to draw up a plan for a coordinated anti-dacoity drive.

The Sarvodaya leader, Mr. Subba Rao, recently announced the failure of the Sarvodaya approach to the problem. The police claim that since last July there have been 26 encounters with dacoits, when 27 dacoits were shot dead, 150 arrested and 141 arms recovered. Unreported dacoities are many.

Steps have also been taken to give more teeth to the police to tackle the dacoit menace. A sum of Rs. 5.74 crores has been provided in the budget this year for modernising the police force.—Our Correspondent.

## LABOR MINISTER SPEAKS AT ILO ASIAN PARLEY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Dec 80 p 9

[Text]

**I**NDIA wants the International Labour Organisation to reorient its traditional role to cope with its new responsibilities which

have devolved on the organisation owing to the added membership of a large number of developing countries, according to Labour and Planning Minister Narain Dutt Tiwari, reports UNI.

Addressing the ninth session of the ILO Asian Regional Conference in Manila on Wednesday night, he said ILO's programmes and means of action, whether in the field of employment or training, safety and health or working environment, industrial relations or social security in relation to these countries would necessarily have to be divergent from those followed hitherto.

He expressed happiness that the ILO Director General's report showed an awareness of the need for change in the text of Mr Tiwari's speech was available in New Delhi.

Mr Tiwari said the removal of poverty and unemployment had been stressed by the ILO in its plan for 1983-87. Therefore, it was natural to ask what the plan held for the vast number of unemployed.

The Minister regretted that the emphasis in the plan was more on the traditional areas of the ILO action—standard setting, collection, analysis and dissemination of essential information which were largely applicable to the organised industrial sector.

The Minister, however, did not wish to belittle ILO's past achievements. He said he was only suggesting change in the attitude of the ILO to keep pace with the time.

Mr Tiwari said he would like political involvement of the Asian governments in regional programmes.

He suggested that the next meeting of the advisory committee might be convened in early 1982 and said the government of India would be glad to host this meeting.

CSO: 4220

## LALDenga OPTIMISTIC MIZO PROBLEM WILL BE SOLVED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jan 81 p 4

[Text]

Even though Mizo National Front Chief Laldenga is still 'optimistic' about finding a permanent political solution to the Mizo problem, the lack of progress in the peace efforts is 'worrying' the rank and file of the underground in the Arakan hills headquarters, reports UNI.

MNF sources said Mr Laldenga believed that the Union Government was 'sincere' about negotiating a settlement although five months have elapsed since the cease-fire became effective on 31 July.

The national council of the underground at a meeting in their Arakan hills hideout in June had asked Mr Laldenga to go ahead with the negotiations to find a solution within the framework of the Indian Constitution.

Accordingly the MNF Chief had several rounds of discussions with Home Minister Zail Singh and other high-ranking officials which led to the cease-fire. Mr Laldenga had also meetings with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Mr Laldenga is reported to have sought Mrs Gandhi's permission

to proceed to Arakan hills to convene a meeting of the national council of the underground for formulating political demands.

In case, the Government had problems of allowing Mr Laldenga to cross the international border, it has been suggested that proper atmosphere be created in Aizawl for holding the meeting.

The Government's silence on these requests is reportedly worrying the rank and file of the underground.

Mr Laldenga's trusted lieutenant Mr Aichhinga was in the Capital in November on the summons of the Home Ministry. After remaining here for about a fortnight, he left for Aizawl 'empty-handed' last month.

Mr Aichhinga's unsuccessful mission has further strengthened the belief among the MNF rank and file that cease-fire should not be observed merely for the sake of it.

The delay on the part of the government to accelerate the process of normalisation is being interpreted as a means to weaken the resolve of the MNF and to lull them into complacency, the sources said.

## TRADE WITH GDR TO RISE BY 28 PERCENT IN 1981

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jan 81 p 3

[Text]

BERLIN, Jan 7 (PTI) — GDR will expand its trade with India in 1981 and talks are also in progress for cooperation in projects for the utilisation of lignite in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir.

The 1981-85 agreement on trade and payment and the protocol on exchange of goods in 1981 signed here last month show that trade and technical cooperation would be enlarged over the five-year period.

In 1981 the two-way trade is expected to cross the Rs 2,000 million mark, representing a 28 per cent increase over the trade plan provision for 1980. The trade between the two countries is on rupee account.

The trade plan provides for Indians exporting to GDR iron ore, semi-finished leather products, textiles, tea, coffee and spices. GDR's imports of finished leather and shoe uppers are likely to be doubled to Rs 20 crores in 1981.

The two countries are already cooperating in projects in third countries such as the construction of grain silos in Libya. GDR

has shown interest in supply of cargo handling equipment for ports and delivery of ships to India. One ship was delivered to the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) in 1980.

Apart from exports through STC and MMTC, many private firms in India have received orders during the Leipzig Fair. GDR will also be buying more costume jewellery from India which is in great demand here.

Indo-GDR cooperation has steadily grown from 1969 when the first long-term trade agreement was signed. In the same year, the trade representation in GDR was raised to the level of a consulate leading to the establishment of full diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level in October 1972.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's visit to GDR in July 1978 was followed by Chairman Eric Hon-ecker's visit to India in January 1979 when the long-term agreement on economic industrial scientific and technical cooperation was concluded.

CSO: 4220

## CPI'S RAO HOLDS JAIPUR PRESS CONFERENCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Dec 80 p 4

[Text]

JAIPUR, Dec. 30

**THE** two Communist parties were coming closer and their relations were fraternal, said general secretary of the Communist party of India Rajeswara Rao.

Talking to newsmen here today, Mr Rao said that the CP-M had changed many of its earlier views on national and international issues but there still were some programmatic differences between the two parties. The CP-M, which was totally against Soviet aid to India, had now changed its stand. It had also changed its attitude towards China and had criticized its aggression against Vietnam.

Replying to a question the CPI leader emphatically said that his party had no relations with the Chinese Communist Party as it was supporting the imperialists, reactionaries and even advocating military alliance with the imperialists.

Asked if the rise of Mr Deng in China would bring about any change, Mr Rao replied "yes" change in the negative direction".

Agencies add:

**PM CRITICISED**

Mr Rao said Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was trying to preclude mass movement by selling

people that the country was faced with external danger.

Mr Rao said Mrs Gandhi had been saying that mass movements were aimed at creating anarchy in the country. The fact was that she was herself using repressive measures and arming the Government with draconian laws like the so-called National Security Act, he added.

Mrs Gandhi wants "one person" rule in the country and the CPI would not accept it, he said adding that the talk of presidential system was aimed at subverting parliamentary democracy.

Mr Rao emphasised that the recent build-up of Pakistani forces on the Indian border has taken place after the Prime Minister's statement that Pakistan had started building up its forces on the Rajasthan border.

Mr Rao also attacked the Bharatiya Janata Party for what he called its clear defence of monopolists and said though they declare from house tops that they are against both capitalism and

communism, all their slogans and activities amount to clear defence of monopolists, big traders and landlords who are the worst exploiters of the people.

He said the well meaning people would not be deceived by the demagoguery about genuine non-alignment and active secularism indulged by the leaders of BJP.

The CPI general secretary hailed the results of the recent visit of Soviet President Mr L I Brezhnev and said those in the country wanted to weaken our friendship with the Soviet Union in the name of genuine non-alignment were only helping nefarious conspiracies of the US-Chinese-Zia axis against India's security and unity.

He said the agreement signed by Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi President Brezhnev would go a long way in further developing our key industries and strengthening our country's defence.

CSO: 4220

## MAHARASHTRA JANATA PARTY CONFERENCE REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Jan 81 p 9

[Article by B. M. Purandare: "Farmers' Issue: JP for Confrontation"]

[Text]

## SHIRISHKUMAR NAGAR

January 5.

**T**HE three-day conference of the Maharashtra Janata party ended here today with a call to active party workers to prepare for a confrontation with the state government on the issue of prices for agricultural produce.

The party leaders repeatedly made it clear that the farmers' agitation, to be organised on a massive scale, was a weapon to bring about social changes and to create an egalitarian society.

The party has now decided to pay more attention to rural problems as per the discussion on the resolutions at the open session. Without getting involved in the class differences of farmers, the party will build up a broad front of big, small marginal farmers and also of farm labourers.

Fully aware of the party's strength, senior leaders adopted a line of co-operation with other opposition parties. They asked the farmers to remain firm ideologically and organisationally and not to fear party politics.

The representatives of farmers who participated in the discussions assailed the agricultural price commission. Describing the APC members as "bookish", they demanded their replacement by farmers.

## RENAMING OF VARSITY

Though no reference was made to the problems of dalits or Adivasis, Mr. S. M. Joshi and Mr. N. G. Goray made a fervent appeal to treat scheduled castes on an equal footing with others.

Mr. Joshi condemned the attack on Harijans in Marathwada and supported the demand for renaming Marathwada University after the late Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

Mr. P. K. Patil, MLA, pledged that over 100,000 farmers from Dhule and Jalgaon districts would participate in the "Dhadak morcha" to be organised in Bombay during the budget session in March. At the same time, Dr. Shanti Patil, president of the Bombay unit of the party, said the working class in the city would wholeheartedly support the cause of farmers.

At the end of the session, the conference adopted a resolution on the Ayam situation. It condemned the repressive measures of the Centre and demanded that negotiations be held with the leaders of the agitation immediately.

Among those who participated in the deliberations were Mrs. Sarojini

Mahishi, Mr. Ravindra Varma, Mr. Madhu Dandavate, Mrs. Pramila Dandavate, Mr. Ramkrishna Hegde and Mr. Surendra Verma.

UPI adds:

Mr. Gauri Shankar Rai, Uttar Pradesh Sugarcane Growers' Association president, announced that the efforts were now being made to organise a countryside farmers' agitation soon. Maharashtra would be the focal point for this struggle.

Mr. Ravindra Varma called workers to mobilise to launch a lone-drawn struggle against the Congress (I) rule which, he alleged, had been trying to muzzle the opposition, the press and the judiciary, causing suffering to people who had to face rising prices, scarcity and a lack of law and order.

PTI adds: About 200,000 delegates are expected for the first national convention of the Janata party to be held next month at Sarnath in Gujarat.

Announcing this at the plenary session, the party general secretary, Mr. H. H. Hegde, said that about 2.7 million people had already enrolled themselves as members of the party.



## UNION, STATE PLANNING MINISTERS CONFER

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Jan 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, January 5. The sixth plan (1980-85) outlay for 22 states and nine Union territories has been set at Rs. 49,200 crores--Rs. 47,554 crores for the states and Rs. 1,646 crores for the Union territories.

Under the guidelines issued by the planning commission, the maximum emphasis in state plans would be on agriculture and allied activities which have a high employment generation potential in rural areas.

The other priorities include irrigation, flood control, power, industry and minerals, transport and communications.

During his discussions with the state chief ministers, the Union planning minister, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, stressed the need for the speedy implementation of schemes which created employment opportunities.

Mr. Tiwari emphasised the urgency of measures to minimise the incidence of poverty and reduce the concentration of wealth. He said poverty could be reduced by the vigorous execution of schemes, meant to improve the living conditions of the weaker sections of society. Among them were schemes for drought-prone areas, desert development, small farms development agency and integrated rural development.

Mr. Tiwari pointed out that a review was undertaken recently of special programmes of rural development and a decision was taken to merge the small farms development programme with the integrated rural development programme which covers all blocks in the country.

Mr. Tiwari asked the chief ministers to ensure the expeditious development of the core sector and to pay due attention to programmes for the scheduled castes and tribes. In the case of Bihar, for instance, the proposed outlay of Rs. 29.5 crores for the welfare of scheduled castes and tribes and backward classes had been raised to Rs. 30 crores. In the case of West Bengal, the proposed investment by the Agricultural Finance Investment Corporation of Rs. 570 crores had been increased to Rs. 600 crores. On welfare schemes the outlay was stepped up from Rs. 909 crores to Rs. 925 crores.

The planning minister called for full resource mobilisation especially in the power sector through better management of state electricity boards and through an increase in power tariffs where feasible. He also suggested the rationalisation of bus fares in the states and better utilisation of the existing fleets.

## NEW KARNATAKA POLITICAL BODY TO RALLY FARMERS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Jan 81 p 9

[Text] Bangalore, January 5: A new political platform called the Karnataka Pragathi Para Janathantra Ranga (Karnataka progressive democratic front), consisting of the Congress (U), CPI, CPM and Lok Dal representatives, has come into existence.

Its first task is to organise a Maharashtra-type long march of farmers and farm labourers from Nargund in Dharwad district, the scene of a violent demonstration and police firing some months back, to Bangalore. The long march, according to the organisers will involve two lakh people and will leave on January 16 and arrive in Bangalore on February 5.

Mr. D. B. Chandre Gowda, leader of the Congress (U) in the state legislative council, who presided over a meeting of the front, said that a martyrs' torch would be carried from Nargund along with the long march to be installed in front of Vidhansoudha in Bangalore.

Though the front has the farmers' struggle as its central issue, its purposes broader, as its sharp attack on the "failure" of the Congress (I) governments, both at the Centre and Karnataka, in various sectors demonstrates.

The front has formulated a 12-point new deal for farmers, including the withdrawal of prosecutions launched against those arrested and put in jail and the waving of all outstanding loans of small and marginal farmers.

The front has also taken up the issue of the one-week old strike in the public sector undertaking in Bangalore and deplored the anti-labour attitude of the government and managements.

CSO: 4220

## HISTORY OF INDO-EEC TRADE RELATIONS REVIEWED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Jan 81 p 8

[Article by Arun Kumar Banerji: "Indian Exporters Need Not Despair"]

[Text]

**T**HE European Economic Community has emerged as a major trading bloc during the 1970s, accounting for 38 per cent of global trade in 1979. It is also one of India's principal trading partners, taking 26 per cent of her exports and supplying 31 per cent of imports in 1978. India is naturally interested in developing closer ties with the Community, and an Indo-EEC agreement providing for expansion of trade and promotion of industrial and technical cooperation is likely to be concluded soon.

When the EEC was set up in 1958, India's attitude to it was, at best, one of indifference. Moreover, it was Britain and not the Community—which included Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy—that was India's principal trading partner and supplier of foreign capital. The Community had high external tariffs on a number of commodities such as tea, cotton textiles and coconut products, exported by the Asian Commonwealth countries. The high tariff, coupled with quantitative restrictions, severely limited India's exports to the Common Market countries.

India's attitude to the EEC, however, changed with the diversification of her external economic links. By the end of the 1960s, trade with Britain declined as a percentage of India's total foreign trade. The Community, on the other hand, emerged as a potentially powerful economic entity. Since 1970, India has shown an interest in

concluding a comprehensive commercial cooperation agreement with the EEC, covering trade, aid and investment. But the latter's response was not favourable primarily because of French opposition.

## BETTER OUTLOOK

In 1973 an Indo-EEC Commercial Cooperation Agreement (CCA) was signed, which became effective from March 1, 1974, and was to remain valid for five years. Since then it has been continuing by virtue of a provision for automatic renewal. The Agreement provided for the grant of most favoured nation treatment in accordance with the principles laid down by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and promotion and diversification of trade on the basis of comparative advantage. It also provided for special sectoral agreements between India and the Community on jute, coir and cotton textiles. A high-powered Joint Commission was set up to sort out trade and economic problems.

The volume of India's trade with the EEC increased substantially during the seventies. Between 1974 (the first year after the Community's expansion) and 1978, India's exports more than doubled, increasing from \$884.5 million to \$1,834.5 million. Imports from the Community increased too, rising from \$837.6 million to \$2,622.4 million. A significant portion of India's trade with the EEC is,

in fact, accounted for by trade with Britain.

The bulk of India's exports to the Community (nearly 70 per cent of the total) is composed of tea, cotton manufactures, leather, silver bullion, handicrafts, engineering goods and minerals. Other commodities such as chemicals and allied products, sugar, oil seeds, jute manufactures, coir and coir manufactures are also exported. Principal imports from the Community include iron ore and steel, industrial machinery, scientific and control equipment, road vehicles, non-ferrous metals, and precious and semi-precious stones.

Although India enjoyed a trade surplus with Britain between 1974-1977, the overall balance of trade with the Community has been adverse to India (except for 1976). This is obviously because India's exports to the EEC have failed to keep pace with imports from the region.

Both Indian officials and business men have often complained of increasing protectionist tendencies in the Community's trade policy, which has adversely affected exports from India as well as from other developing countries which are not signatories to the Lome Convention. Community spokesmen, however, deny this. At a seminar on Indo-EEC relations held in New Delhi in November, Mr. Luigi Bosselli, the chief of the Asian Relations Division of the EEC Commission, argued that between

1973 and 1979 India's traditional exports to the Community increased by 103 per cent although exports of several major items, such as tea, coffee, oil cakes, manufactured tobacco, etc., increased at slower rates; and that exports of Indian manufactures registered a higher rate of growth with the export of cotton clothings recording the highest growth rate (690 per cent).

Mr Bosselli maintained that if India's export performance was not as good as was expected the fault lay with India's exporters and not with the EEC's policies. On many items, Indian exports could not even reach the ceilings imposed by the Community. Figures may be deceptive, but there is some truth in Mr Bosselli's assertion.

Part of India's exports to the Community is covered by the Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) instituted by the EEC in 1971. The Scheme offers non-reciprocal limited preferential treatment to many industrial and a few agricultural products from developing countries. The GSP benefits are, however, limited in nature as several commodities of which India is a major exporter, such as textiles, jute and leather goods have been put in the "sensitive" category. Mr Bosselli's argument can be countered by pointing out that the EEC has fixed high ceilings on the import of many items (e.g. in the textile group) which do not figure prominently among India's exports, while severely restricting the import of other items of importance to India.

## UNUSED QUOTAS

Thus although it is true that Indian exports have not always reached the ceilings on specific items, this by itself may not indicate how EEC's restrictive policies affect Indian trade, even under the GSP. Exports from India may be boosted to some extent if the Community agrees

to inter-governmental transfer of quotas so that quotas fixed for specific items not used by one importing country may be used by another.

But tariff and quantitative restrictions offer only a partial explanation for India's inadequate performance in exporting to the EEC countries. A fuller explanation may be found in the composition of India's exports. The major items of export to the Community are affected either by market constraints or by supply constraints, or by both. Market is the critical constraint for items such as tea, jute tobacco and silver. Improvement in quality and diversification of products may lead to some increase in exports.

At a time of increasing unemployment within the Community, the decision-makers in Brussels cannot be expected to agree to any proposal for a substantial

reduction in the quantitative restrictions imposed on imports from developing countries. For Indian exporters, however, there is no cause for despair. One should realize that, even within the existing constraints, Hong Kong has done much better than India in selling products to the EEC. Since India's exports to the Community constitute less than one per cent of the EEC's total imports, there is considerable scope for increasing exports to the region, particularly engineering goods, chemical products, iron and steel, and gems and jewellery.

But even for these items supply may be the major constraint, although this may be sought to be overcome by policy changes and additional investments. Special attention should be paid to maintenance of quality and delivery schedules. Equally important is the need for market intelligence. The Indo-EEC Joint Commission has played an important role in the expansion of India's trade with the Community. At the initiative of the Commission India has promoted Commercial Cooperation Programmes with various West European countries aimed at increasing India's export of non-traditional commodities through collection of market intelligence. A Trade Centre has also been set up in Brussels to provide technical assistance in the field of export promotion.

## FOREIGN FUNDS

The EEC is not only an important trading partner but also a major source of foreign investment, accounting for nearly 30 per cent of total foreign investment in India. It should, however, be noted that for most EEC countries (with the notable exception of Britain) investments in India constitutes a very small portion of total investment overseas; even the rate of inflow of new British investment has progressively declined. The most important factor affecting the flow of foreign investment to India is the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and the complicated taxation and payment structure. Equally discouraging for prospective foreign investors is the inordinate delay in the clearance of proposals for foreign investment and induction of foreign technology even in sectors where foreign collaboration is not prohibited. A less ambiguous official policy may help to encourage foreign investors.

There is also considerable scope for technological collaboration between Indian and European firms in engineering and non-engineering sectors, especially production of fertilizers, soda ash, insulation paper, etc. Joint ventures abroad is another area of cooperation not yet fully explored. Advantage could also be taken of the Community's special relations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States. An Indian industrial delegation which visited Brussels last year was told by the EEC Commission that Indian firms registered in ACP States could participate in tenders as ACP companies and would have opportunities for sub-contracts in European Investment Bank-financed projects.

Official rhetoric notwithstanding India does not occupy a position of priority in the EEC's external relations and it would be unrealistic to expect any radical shift in the Community's policy towards India. Nevertheless, considerable expansion of India's trade and economic ties with the Community is possible within the present framework, with some adjustments by both sides.

## CALCUTTA POLICE INTERROGATE SUSPECTED SPY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jan 81 p 3

[Text] The Detective Department of Calcutta Police held a 42-year-old Bengali inside a waiting room at Howrah station on Monday on the suspicion that he was involved in an international spy racket.

During interrogation at Lalbazar on Tuesday, the man allegedly told police officials about "American agents", senior diplomats, a close relative of a former Union Minister and a few other well-known individuals and institutions, being involved in transmitting abroad information about Indian defence, atomic plants and other important installations.

A diary, with a number of names and addresses, and a suitcase were found with the man. The police said there was a pass to enter the West Bengal Legislative Assembly inside the suitcase.

According to the man, a group of foreigners had approached him in Nepal a year ago, gave him money and wanted information about strategic secrets. They told him to visit Khetri and Pilani in Rajasthan to gather information about copper mines and Jadugora, near Jamshedpur, to find out details of the uranium mine there and to pass the information to people in Nepal. The foreigners allegedly agreed to pay for his expenses and asked him to use fictitious names. He was introduced to leaders of a militant religious group in Patna.

He claimed that in Calcutta, he was instructed to look for recruits for the racket. Educated and unemployed young men were preferred.

The Detective Department handed the man over to the Security Control during the day. According to the police, he was a matriculate, married, unemployed and had left home a year ago.

CSO: 4220



## SIKKIM LEADER WARNS AGAINST AIDING TROUBLEMAKERS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 23 Dec 80 p 7

[Text]

GANGTOK, Dec 22.—The Chief Minister of Sikkim, Mr Nar Bahadur Bhandari, has warned a "particular business community" against financing "some politicians" to foment trouble in the State. He was speaking to a group of Calcutta-based reporters at a Press conference here on Saturday.

He said that the business community, which had established a flourishing trade in the State, was "unhappy" with the present State Government because of its stern measures against corruption. The Government had initiated 10 corruption cases against a "few important persons" of the former Dorji Government, out of which six were against business men. Mr Bhandari alleged he had definite information that the business community had financed a senior Opposition leader of the State to campaign against the present Government.

The Chief Minister said the people in Sikkim were peace-loving and would never support any "Aasmitra movement" in the State. But he alleged, some Nepalese leaders in Darjeeling were trying to incite the Nepalese in Sikkim to support the cause for a separate Gurkha land. He said that the Government was aware

of such activity and would never allow people outside the State to disturb peace in Sikkim.

Regarding the reported sources for a merger of the ruling Sikkim Parishad with the Congress (I), Mr Bhandari said that the party members were in favour of retaining the separate identity of the party. He said, however, that his party had always supported Mrs Gandhi and wished to contest the last Assembly elections on a Congress (I) symbol. Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Union Commerce Minister,

who was in-charge of the Congress (I) campaigning in the North-eastern States had not, however, agreed to the proposal of the Sikkim Parishad. As a result, candidates of the Parishad contested the election as Independents and won 21 out of the 23 seats in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr Bhandari said the earthquake which rocked Gangtok on November 19 had seriously affected the economy of the State. The Chief Minister's residence and the Secretariat building were badly damaged and needed immediate repair. Crops worth about Rs 80 lakhs were lost and Rs 1 crore was required for the repair of roads in the State. The Chief Minister said a Central team would visit the State next week to assess the loss caused by the earthquake.

CSO: 4220

## COMMANDER INTERVIEWED ON SOUTHERN NAVAL COMMAND

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Dec 80 p 19

[Article by H. Kusumakar: "Supreme task of S. Naval Command"]

[Text] As one flies from Cochin to Dabolim (Goa) in the Navy's Super Constellation, a hardy 36-year-old American four-engine aircraft once used by Air-India for the long haul between Bombay and London, a vast, blue sea lies below and the words of Vice-Admiral O. S. Dawson, Flag Officer commanding-in-chief, Southern Naval Command, about the awesome responsibility of the Indian Navy ring in one's ears.

The Indian Ocean is 28 million sq. miles in area, 50 per cent of it lying within 500 miles of the Indian territory. Of the three naval commands, eastern, western and southern, the territorial extent of the Southern Naval Command stretches from Kanyakumari to Goa and encompasses Lakshadweep.

From the strategic viewpoint, the southern command is perhaps the most important, being charged with maritime operations for effective seaward defence of major ports and island territories in the waters bounded by the south-west coast of India. Besides, almost every important activity concerning naval aviation in the fields of training, maintenance and logistics are concentrated in this command.

In times of war, the navy is required to "defend our coastline, off-shore interests and our sea lines of communication." This, as Vice-Admiral Dawson puts it, "must be prosecuted positively and vigorously to frustrate the enemy's attempts to control the seas and to secure control for ourselves."

## Peace-Time Missions

The navy's peace-time missions cover not only water under India's political and economic jurisdiction but the sea in general, whether to foster international understanding, assist friends, deter aggressors or contribute to national and international research and development of hydrospace. Nearer home, the navy is often called upon to help in search and rescue, salvage, pollution control, anti-smuggling, diving aid and a variety of other functions.

India's unique geographic position at the head of the Indian Ocean, astride East-West trade routes, can be of great maritime asset but without assertive sea power, these will be reduced to great liabilities in times of war. "Therein lies the magnitude of the navy's responsibility."

The Indian navy, compared to the navies of the super powers, is small, but Vice-Admiral Dawson describes it as a "powerful, three-dimensional navy, with an inbuilt capacity to operate on the surface, under the surface and above the surface." It is also well-balanced, possessing a carrier, a cruiser, frigates, submarines, missile boats, patrol vessels, mine-sweepers, landing craft, replenishment ships and other auxiliary vessels.

In this rapidly advancing technological era, it is not more numbers of ships and aircraft that matter. Our ships, submarines and aircraft must be modern, well-maintained and ever ready, if we are, as the saying goes, to have the enemy for lunch before he has us for dinner." Modernisation and indigenisation are going hand in hand. The latest version of the Leander-type frigates, being built at Mazagon Dock (Bombay), will have 80 to 85 per cent indigenous components.

Should India follow the U.S. and the USSR in the race for greater sophistication in its naval power? Should it aim at possessing nuclear-powered ships and increasing electronic and computerised operations? These are largely questions to be decided politically in the context of foreseen dangers.

The man behind the machine is not to be overlooked. Indeed, the Indian Navy realises, like others, that even with the sophistication of ships, aircraft, equipment and weapons, the man behind them still remains the most important single factor in warfare. Between Cochin and Goa, the Southern Naval Command has, apart from its operational functions, spread its activities to train men of practically all ranks in careers of seafaring, with all the adventure, peril, hardship and satisfaction that it implies.

"Dronacharya," and "Ekalavya" are among the evocative names that some of the naval establishments in this region bear. INS "Dronacharya" provides basic and advanced training in surface weapons and their associated sensors and control equipment. The Naval Academy trains graduate entry officers for the executive branch of the navy. It also conducts basic naval orientation courses for direct entry officers of the technical and non-technical branches and war courses for specialist officers. Additionally, it conducts academic and management courses for commission-worthy candidates.

While INS Garuda trains officers and men to meet the aviation requirements of the navy, INS Venduruthy functions as a depot establishment to provide logistic support. A well-equipped naval hospital is appropriately named INS Sanjivani.

Cochin abounds in schools to impart training in the communication branch of the navy, navigation, combat information set-up in ships and techniques of operational control and directing aircraft to sea. The school of maritime warfare and tactics trains officers in command-level combat decision-making, analysis of naval operations and development of new strategic and tactical doctrines and concepts.

The use of various types of underwater sensors as well as weapons like torpedos and mines, conduct of anti-submarine operations and tactics used by surface ships in a submarine environment are some of the subjects taught at the torpedo and anti-submarine school. In the diving school, officers and sailors are trained for specialised and hazardous underwater attacks on enemy ships, and beach clearance of mines and bombs.

Now hop from Cochin to Goa to witness the navy's primary air station. A "mock fight" shows how well prepared is the air wing of the navy to ward off any attack by the enemy on an airfield. Squadrons consisting of Dove and Islander aircraft meet the aircraft requirements of the navy. Naval "observers" who are air navigators, are specially trained in anti-submarine air warfare. "Seaking" squadrons are frontline anti-submarine helicopter support. The helicopter training school converts pilots to helicopter flying with the help of Hughes and Alouette helicopters. A recent rescue operation was to lift the commander of a Russian ship for an emergency operation for a bleeding peptic ulcer.

The navy's hydrographic school at Goa stands out as the only unit of its kind in this part of the world to conduct marine survey and provide cartographic training. With UNDP assistance, this unit is on the verge of strengthening and expanding its activities in the preparation of maritime charts and depth study of physical, chemical and biological oceanography.

CSO: 4220

## ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH INDONESIA DISCUSSED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Dec 80 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, December 3: India and Indonesia yesterday agreed to set up a study group to pursue economic, commercial and industrial collaborations.

The agreement was reached at a meeting between Indian and Indonesian teams led respectively by Mr Pranab Mukherjee, commerce minister, and Mr Widjojo Nitisaastro, chairman of the Indonesian National Planning Board.

The meeting discussed the development plans of the two countries and the possibility of increasing and diversifying economic and commercial relations between them. General trade issues and joint ventures, railways, power generation and transmission, cement and fertilisers were the topics discussed.

Mr Mukherjee suggested that there should be periodical discussions between the two countries on these issues.

The two-way trade between India and Indonesia totalled 243 million dollars in the last two years.

India's main exports to Indonesia include tubes, pipes and fittings, iron and steel castings, structural parts, small and hand tools and spare parts, office machines, metal working machinery, machines for specialised industries, motor vehicles, cinematographic films, clothings, furnitures and other manufactured articles.

India's main imports from Indonesia include palm oil, urea and cement.

One of the most prospective fields for expansion of India's exports to Indonesia is the engineering sector.

CSO: 4220



## WRITER EXAMINES DEVELOPMENTS IN LADAKH

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Jan 81 p 8

[Text]

It is unfortunate that Ladakh's plausible case of sympathetic treatment should have become entangled in an infructuous tussle between the Congress(I) and the National Conference. Renewed disturbances suggest that in spite of Mrs Gandhi's assurances to Sheikh Abdullah, some of her local followers are determined to embarrass the Chief Minister. The provocation is to be deplored not because Ladakh does not have grounds for complaint, but because a border region of considerable strategic importance should not be dragged into partisan quarrels. It was regrettable that the creation of two districts, Leh and Kargil, should in effect have separated Buddhists from Muslims and given a quite unnecessary impetus to communal rivalry. But worse still are the efforts of the All-Parties Action Committee, led by the Congress (I) M.P., Mr P. Namgyal, to mobilize opinion against the Government in Srinagar, and the recrudescence of violence and arson that this has resulted in. Sheikh Abdullah is not the man to make concessions under such political pressure. Indeed, he has already pointed

out that Ladakh receives 200 per cent more Plan funds than other areas and that the Sikri Commission last year rejected charges of economic discrimination. On the contrary, the Commission felt Leh was sometimes favoured at Kargil's expense, but that this imbalance was being corrected.

This defence does not, however, meet the Ladakhi demand for local autonomy, official status for the regional language and higher allocations based on area (Ladakh being bigger than Jammu and Kashmir combined). Instead of on population, since Ladakh's 120,000 people means a density of only two per square kilometre against the State's average of 46. Though the earlier demand for conversion into a Union Territory seems to have been dropped, it is suggested now that Ladakh should be made into an administrative division or declared a Scheduled Tribes area. These claims are possibly inspired by Ladakh's ancient connexions with Central Asia and

its tenuous and relatively modern links with the princely State of Kashmir; they are certainly buttressed by an awareness of distinctive cultural, linguistic and religious traditions and by a sense of neglect in such matters as education, electrification, roads, housing and industry. Such differences are only to be expected in a country of India's size and ethnic variety, exacerbated in Ladakh's case by extraordinarily difficult communications. But though the Gajendragadkar Commission warned against local autonomy in 1968, there is no reason why problems cannot be solved through imaginative policies and administrative adjustments, so long as they are kept out of the arena of political controversy. Though the basic question of status has to be decided by New Delhi and not Srinagar, Sheikh Abdullah—who has not implemented specific recommendations of the Sikri and Gajendragadkar Commissions—might take a less rigid stand if he did not feel that he was being served with an ultimatum; and the provocation to him is as much to be deplored as Bharatiya Janata Party encouragement of the Assam agitators or six-party support for the Nasik farmers' organization.



## CONTENT OF BACKWARD CLASSES COMMISSION REPORT TOLD

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Jan 81 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan 6.

Reservation of jobs, under the Centre and public sector undertakings, for backward classes has been suggested by the Mandal commission, which submitted its report to the Union Government recently.

The Commission favours this and other concessions for specified castes, identified on the basis of their social and educational backwardness and not on economic factors.

The Backward Classes commission was appointed two years ago and was the second of its type. The first, presided over by Kaka Kalelkar, also favoured reservations for what were described as "other backward classes" or the weaker sections other than the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes.

But neither the Congress Government nor the two non-Congress regimes considered it advisable to go in for reservations in Central posts.

Mr. K. Subramaniam, a member of the Commission, today acquainted newsmen with what he called the contours of the Commission's work. The Commission, he said, felt that there

were still certain castes which were socially and economically backward and, because of that, lagged behind others economically.

These sections were, therefore, considered worthy of concessions and encouragement to enable them to catch up with the advanced. The number of such castes, listed by the present Commission, is much bigger than nearly 1000 recommended by the Kalelkar report and is attached as an appendix to the report.

The Commission, he said, prepared the list even though the Home Ministry told it that this was no part of its job. According to Mr. Subramaniam, the Commission members felt that without the list of "other backward classes" their recommendations would only be of academic interest.

Charge against Chairman: Mr. Subramaniam bitterly criticised Mr. Mandal for having presented the report to the Home Minister, Mr. Zail Singh, "sneakingly" without telling other members. According to him, a meeting of the Commission was fixed for Dec. 30 last, but the Chairman went ahead

with the presentation without providing the members the last opportunity for discussion.

He said he favoured the grading of the listed castes, according to their needs for help, and the Chairman knew about it. He had lodged his protest to the Chairman, Mr. Subramaniam said. He urged the Government to adhere to the terms of reference and apply the criteria mentioned by the Commission to the castes included in the common list.

While he did not indicate the specific measures, Mr. Subramaniam said they felt that the last in the queue should be the first to be considered for concessions. The Commission had gone about scientifically, on the basis of sample surveys, to identify the "other backward classes".

The remedies recommended by it, according to him, were in the nature of the provision of "tools and thrusts", and changes in the cooperative law. There were specific recommendations for the areas with large concentrations of "other backward classes".

## DELINEATION OF NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY URGED

Madras THE HINDU in English 8 Jan 81 p 8

[Editorial: "Making Best Use of Energy"]

[Text]

A THREE-DAY SEMINAR held in Madras, under the auspices of the National Productivity Council, was no great effort but it can be taken to have at least tried to direct the torch on the generally neglected area of energy conservation. In the wake of the phenomenal increase in petroleum prices in the past seven years, in the advanced countries like the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan much attention has been paid to national fuel-saving measures by the Governments concerned as well as industries. For example, the campaign to cut oil consumption was spearheaded by the U.S. President himself outlining several programmes. Maybe, these highly industrialised countries, which had registered remarkable economic progress, had been overindulgent in the field of energy use, accustomed for more than 25 years to obtaining dirt cheap as much crude oil as they intended for. There was ample elbow room to effect reductions without sacrificing the essential components of economic growth. If the sea change in the price pattern for oil supplies has not shocked developing countries like India into evolving a policy of thrift, one reason could be that the energy use itself has been at subsistence levels. A stage has come now when something like Rs. 6,000 crores has to be spent in not-so-plentiful foreign exchange to maintain the current demand by industry,

transport, agriculture and households. This amount compares with a possible Rs. 7,000 crores in export earnings.

Unless there is an early breakthrough as a result of the newly keyed up oil exploration programme, the country will soon find its petroleum product supplies not adequate at all to spur development activity. Almost 50 per cent of the total energy consumed is of non-commercial origin — dung, wood, residues and other wastes. Of the commercial energy 30 per cent is electricity and per capita consumption is one per cent of that in the U.S. The share of the industrial and transport sectors is about 75 per cent of the total use of coal, petroleum and electricity, according to a senior Union Government official. Since one of the options before the country is to go in for a rapid increase in electricity production from thermal plants, the clear objective must be to make the most efficient use of electricity. About 80 per cent of power is made use of by electric motors in industry and agriculture. High performance motors are frightfully expensive and this has led to the choice of cheaper motors which are a recurring drain on energy efficiency. Modernisation of the cement industry — changing over from the wet to the dry process — will lead to a great saving on heating and a significant reduction in the coal input. Chemical and

non-ferrous manufacturers using electrolysis can also lighten the burden by the use of sophisticated processes.

The primitive designs of the automobiles on Indian roads are a drain on diesel and petrol. The industry cries out for a largescale revamping to get more milage out of the vehicles. Much kerosene is wasted due to the inefficient designs of the stoves in use. The new makes are in short supply and command a premium on the black market.

Almost in every branch of activity, there is scope for more efficient use of energy — whether it be oil, coal or electricity. Is there a national energy policy? If there is one, it is yet to be spelt out. The Government of India should delay no more on this vital matter—it must evolve a strategy that will not only plan for a switch away from oil but also the development of a countrywide consciousness to get the best out of the scarce supplies.

CSO: 4220

## SHIPPING TONNAGE TO BE INCREASED DURING 80'S

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jan 81 p 7

[Text]

**T**HE Government has decided to increase the country's shipping tonnage from six million GRT to 10 million GRT during the decade.

In this context, important steps would be taken to modernise training institution and establish new ones to equip seagoing personnel for dealing with automated and technologically advanced vessels. Mr C P Srivastava, Secretary-General of UN's Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (IMCO) told newsmen on Tuesday.

Former chairman of the Shipping Corporation of India, Mr Srivastava, who has recently been elected to lead IMCO for the third successive term, visited shipyards and training facilities in the country at the request of the Government.

The Government has decided to spend about Rs 30 crore on setting up a shore-based training academy and acquiring a cargo-cum-training ship for pre-sea training and on-the-job training of cadets. A new institute is also to be set up to provide post-sea training and refresher courses in view of the fast-changing technology involved in tankers,

containers and other bulk carriers. The existing institutes would be modernised and updated.

Stressing the need for constant changes in personnel training, Mr Srivastava said IMCO would provide all expert help (in terms of advice and personnel) to the Government in turning out scientifically-oriented and efficient seamen and officers.

International inquiries were already being made by the Government, he said, to acquire the needed cargo-cum-training ship. For the shore-based academy, the Maharashtra Government had already approved the land. The project report is expected to be ready in about three months' time.

Mr Srivastava said he had also urged the Union Shipping Minister to step up ship-building capacity as also productivity in the shipyards.

Ports should be prepared to deal with peak-level traffic and provide for 10 per cent surplus berthing facilities, he said, rather than just be prepared to handle average levels of traffic.

It was better to have some vacant berths rather than have waiting ships, he said.

CSO: 4220

## REVISED CONSUMER PRICE INDEX PLANNED FOR 1985

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Jan 81 p 9

[Text]

TRIVANDRUM, Jan. 6.

The revised consumer price index number for the industrial workers in the country with base year as 1981 will be ready by the end of 1984.

The base year for the present index number is 1960, and the revision will be effected on the basis of the statistics collected during the family living survey to be held for a full year commencing from March 1, 1981.

In finalising the details to be incorporated in the family living survey and also for preparing a questionnaire for this survey, the Labour Bureau of the Union Labour Ministry (Chandigarh) is holding discussions at State capitals in the country, and one such meeting was held in Trivandrum on Tuesday.

Mrs. S. Basu, Director of the Labour Bureau told newsmen that about 250 consumer items were being identified during the present discussion for preparing the questionnaire.

Mrs. Basu and Mr. J. N. Sharma, Joint Director of the Bureau who was

also present, said that 50,000 households in the 70 odd centres would be covered during the present income and expenditure survey of the selected families.

In Kerala, the centres selected for the survey are, Trivandrum, Kanyakumari, Alwaye and Quilon.

Representatives of the Central Trade Unions in Kerala (CTU, AITUC, HMS, INTUC) and of the employers of industries participated in today's discussions.

Mrs. Basu said they had visited all the States except Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. They would next visit Hyderabad.

The preliminary work for preparing the questionnaire started by August last year.

The statistics collected during the family living survey would be compiled by the end of 1982, and the figure regarding the consumer price index number would be arrived at by the end of 1984, she said.

CSO: 4220

## Dacca Rumored Planning Indian Trade Center

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jan 81 p 8

[Text]

CALCUTTA, Jan. 7 — There are, according to competent sources, reasons to be worried over a Bangladesh attempt to open a centre on trade inside Indian territory at Radhikapur, off Mal-dah. The centre is designed to be one for the proposed trade between Bangladesh and Bhutan. The curious point is that it is being planned by-passing India.

Reports are also available about an increasing rate of smuggling of small arms from Bangladesh into India. According to these sources, in the recent period, Bangladesh has been receiving very large consignments of small arms from China. These arms are being smuggled into India, it is believed.

The regime of Ziaur Rahman is believed to be in great need of

arms, in view of the 'unquiet' situation in that country. The uneasiness is caused by increasing disaffection in the armed forces.

President Zia is trying to face the situation by other means as well. One method is by winning some more officers in the armed forces into his selected council of advisers.

The other method is his proposed 'disturbed areas' bill which is likely to be introduced in the national assembly, despite protest by the Opposition.

It has always been a feature in Bangladesh that with every manifestation of internal troubles that country, with the exception of the period when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was at the helm of affairs, tried to divert the people's attention and mind through anti-India words and deeds, according to these sources.

CSO: 4220



## SUBSIDY FOR INVESTMENT IN NORTHEAST RAISED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Dec 80 p 1

[Text] The North-East Council on Monday announced that it will raise from 15 to 20 per cent its investment subsidy for industries set up in Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram reports PTI.

The ceiling on the subsidy will also go up from Rs 15 lakhs to Rs 20 lakhs. Chairman of the Council L P Singh told a press conference at the end of the first meeting held outside the region by the organisation charged with the task of developing northeast.

The council has been able to extract a promise from the Planning Commission that the outlay for the Sixth Plan would be raised from Rs 315 to Rs 360 crores.

The Council had sought an allocation of Rs 445 crores. It is at the instance of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that it is getting Rs 25 crores more than the allocation earlier fixed by the Commission.

The council was told that the Indian Airlines would introduce a direct Gauhati-Delhi flight from next month and that the Bongaigaon-Gauhati broadgauge link would be ready by 1982.

The Chief Ministers were keen on some spectacular initiative to tap the huge hydel potential of 21,000 megawatts the north-east has as against the current total national production of 31,000 megawatts of power.

They were told by the Energy Minister that this would be studied.

A special group has been set up for the development of small sector in the north-east.

Freight subsidy and other proposals would be studied by the Union Ministers, Mr Singh said.

CSO: 4220

## PROBLEMS OF SMALLSCALE INDUSTRY EXAMINED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Jan 81 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, January 5 (PTI). The Union deputy minister of industry, Mr P. A. Sangma, said here today that the government was finalising a scheme for creating buffer stock of raw materials to ensure uninterrupted industrial production.

Opening a seminar on "Growth of small-scale sector" organised by the All-India Manufacturers' Organisation, Mr Sangma said supply disruption often complicated the availability of certain industrial raw materials and the proposed buffer stocking would help in balancing the flow of raw materials.

Mr Sangma said though the small-scale sector achieved an impressive record in terms of numbers and also sophistication of their products, certain distortions have been noticed in their development and growth pattern.

The growth has been primarily in the metropolitan areas and periphery of large towns instead of rural and backward areas, he added.

"No-Linkage"

Mr Sangma said the small-scale sector was struggling to develop on its own without proper linkage with the large and medium sectors and also was suffering from lack of credit facilities.

The industrial policy statement announced by the government in July 1980 was an attempt to correct these distortions and ensure interdependence of various industrial sectors for achieving higher industrial growth rate.

Mr Sangma said ancillarisation could serve as an effective means of encouragement of the small-scale sector with not only an assured market tie-up but also scope for improvement in technology and quality of the products.

The new concept of "nucleus plants" was also being implemented with the setting up of such a project at Govindwalsahib in Punjab.

Mr Sangma said the government could not extend unlimited facility as it would lead to discouragement of private initiative. The small-scale sector should also not hesitate in furnishing information required in the larger interest of the sector, he added.

#### Two Problems

Finance and marketing were the principal problems facing a small entrepreneur in the country, according to Mr M. K. Mohta, chairman of the All-India Manufacturers' Organisation.

Presiding over the seminar, Mr Mohta urged that in view of the severe constraints of the ability of the small-scale sector to raise capital from outside, banking and institutional financing support for this sector should be stepped up.

Currently, he pointed out, the small-scale units preferred non-institutional sources because such credit would be available on lower margins, flexible data of repayment and not much furnishing of the detailed statements regarding their operation.

Mr Mohta suggested that there should be information centres at district level where the small-scale entrepreneur could get the necessary industrywise information regarding marketing.

Welcoming the delegates to the one-day seminar, Mr S. S. Aggarwal, chairman of the AIMO's special council for small and ancillary industries, demanded legislative protection for small-scale industries. For the fast growth of small-scale sector, it was essential that the law be enacted at the earliest.

Mr Aggarwal pleaded that reservation of items for exclusive manufacturers in the small-scale sector should be statutorily supported by the government.

CSO: 4220

## LIMITATIONS ON FOODGRAIN EXPORT DEEMED NECESSARY

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Dec 80 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI Dec. 3.

One of the penalties of success, as India is learning from its green revolution is that many Third World countries expect it to share the fruits of its agricultural development by exporting foodgrains to them.

It is not only the poorer countries burdened with chronic food shortages that are looking up to India, but even the affluent oil-exporting States want to establish a durable economic relationship to provide for an assured supply of wheat and rice.

The Government is finding it increasingly difficult to explain to them that India's impressive buffer stocks hardly offer a margin of safety beyond a point for its vast population against seasonal hazards like failure of rains, floods or drought in a country of subcontinental dimensions.

It cannot afford to take the risk of emerging as an exporter of foodgrains on any substantive scale in the near future although it is well placed to spare some of its buffer stocks in special cases.

But India's friends and well-wishers as well as critics and rivals have been taken in by the great publicity given to its green revolution. The Government itself has been talking of the country's impressive buffer stocks which are much more than the cereal consumption of most countries in the world.

It is on the basis of this mistaken impression that India has a

lot of food to spare that many countries have started badgering it with requests for wheat and rice.

So India's bilateral diplomacy these days contains a note of apology that its agricultural success is primarily aimed at achieving self-sufficiency with a comfortable margin not on entering the international group of food-exporting nations. It takes considerable effort to carry some degree of conviction about India's limitations, when a country like Iraq or Iran, or Sri Lanka or Vietnam, asks for some foodgrains.

The buffer stocks of rice and wheat, which generally stood around 20 or 22 million tonnes during the high seasonal points, averaged 18 million tonnes over the last few years. But after the heavy id-take during the lean season, the stocks had come down to 10 or 12 million tonnes before they are replenished through fresh procurement.

This year the Central stocks were further drawn down to as low as eight million tonnes at the end of September, 1980. However the stocks lying with purchasing agents and the State Governments helped to keep up the total reserves around 11 million tonnes.

But the rice procurement of this year's kharif crop has been stepped up to achieve a target of five to six million tonnes which means that at the end of 1980, the over-all stock position would

be roughly the same as in the last three or four years.

The pricing policies of the Government have also led over the years to a progressive switch-over from wheat to rice cultivation in many northern States. So the procurement of the wheat crop during the cold season has been gradually declining, leaving the country with a surplus of rice reserves.

The domestic consumption of wheat has also gone up with the result that at present the Government has a stock of only six million tonnes of wheat which it cannot afford to deplete any further by exporting a part of it.

It is for this reason that India has offered rice to the Soviet Union in place of wheat for crude oil and other petroleum products. The offer has still to be finalised since the Russians also are not too anxious to have rice in place of wheat.

The only countries that are interested in rice are some of the South-East Asian nations. The African countries also prefer wheat to rice.

At almost every bilateral discussion with other third world countries the Indian Ministers and officials have to go through the limitations of explaining the limitations of the country's green revolution.

The latest tendency is not to crow too much about it, since excessive publicity has led to a lot of avoidable embarrassment in the conduct of the country's foreign relations.

## BANGLADESH MINISTER ARRIVES FOR WATERS TALKS

Bombay THE TIMES OF India in English 7 Jan 81 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, January 6:

**T**HE Bangladesh water resources minister, Kazi Anwarul Haque, indicated here today that Dacca had not changed its stand that the Indian proposal for the construction of a link canal between the Brahmaputra and the Ganga was not acceptable to it.

Arriving here this evening heading a 14-member delegation for a review of the Indo-Bangladesh Ganga water agreement, Mr. Haque said, "We examined the proposal thoroughly for full one year. Our conclusion is that the proposal is unacceptable economically and ecologically."

He said the proposal was not feasible technologically too, but when a correspondent pointed out to him his earlier remark that it was technically possible to carry water through a canal

200 miles long, he corrected himself to say that it was not economically and ecologically desirable.

The Bangladesh delegation was received at Palam airport by the agriculture and irrigation minister, Rao Birendra Singh, who will lead the Indian delegation to the review talks, and the minister of state for irrigation, Mr. Z. A. Ansari.

Mr. Haque said the proposal was first made by India in 1974. It was thoroughly examined by a joint committee of the two countries for full one year. A joint report was then submitted to the two governments. It contained the Bangladesh viewpoint that the proposal was not feasible.

"We have looked at the proposal more than once," Mr. Haque said with a serious air of finality, but went on to add that "we are hopeful that a solution, some new approach

to the problem will emerge from the talks. Otherwise, we would not have come here."

Mr. Haque said that, from the viewpoint of conserving scarce water, it was desirable to associate Nepal in the consultations. Asked how he could hope for an agreement among three parties when two parties were unable to resolve their differences, Mr. Haque said that, in his view, "If two parties cannot agree, it will be easier by involving more parties."

## DAMS IN HIMALAYAS

Mr. Haque said that it would be desirable to associate Nepal for building dams in the Himalayas. "We are concerned with how best to conserve and utilise a free gift of nature."

The Bangladesh delegation has come here for the second meeting to review the impact of the Indo-Bangladesh Ganga waters agreement after it had been worked for three years. The first meeting for this review was held in Dacca in November. The Indian minister, Rao Birendra Singh, hoped that they would be able to conclude the review in this meeting. The conclusions would be referred to the two governments for further action.

The Indian delegation includes a representative of the Calcutta port trust which indicates that the impact of the agreement — short-term water sharing formula — will be considered by the meeting. The Calcutta port trust has been complaining of an abnormal fall in the level of the Hooghly this year. India's view is that the quantum of water allowed into the Hooghly through the Farakka barrage is inadequate.

## CPI ISSUES STATEMENT AGAINST OPPOSITION UNITY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Jan 81 pp 1, 7

[Text]

The CPI reaffirmed that it is opposed to "all-in Opposition unity" which includes "reactionary parties like the BJP" against the Congress-I Government.

Stating this in a statement issued on Thursday, the CPI central executive committee said that the garb of 'Gandhian socialism' which the old RSS-Jana Sangh had now donned under the name of the BJP was meant only to cover its defence of monopolists, big traders and landlords.

CPI general secretary C Rajeswara Rao released the statement at a press conference in the Capital at the end of a four-day meeting of the central executive.

Asked between the Congress-I and the BJP which one did his party consider more dangerous, Mr Rao said 'The one who is sitting on the chair is more dangerous, no doubt. But we do not forget that the BJP is at present being projected by the Big Business as the real alternative to the Congress-I.'

Considering the socio-economic policies which it was advocating, the BJP could not be the alternative, Mr Rao asserted. 'The real alternative will be provided by the Left parties,' he added.

The statement stated that the CPI had doggedly pursued and would continue to pursue the

line that 'as far as the Left parties are concerned there is no question of all-in Opposition unity, including the reactionary parties, like the BJP, against the Congress-I Government.' It further underlined that 'whenever the Congress-I Government has taken positions in the interests of the country, the CPI, as well as other Left, democratic and secular parties have supported them.'

## THREAT TO PEACE

At the very outset, Mr Rao said the CPI felt that the danger to India's security had lately increased with 'Chinese and Americans aiming Pakistan in a big way,' Chinese missiles directed against India and strengthening of the presence of US troops in the Indian Ocean. Furthermore, Mr Ronald Reagan's election to the post of US President had enhanced the threat to world peace as well as to India.

In this context, Mr Rao spoke of the controversy in the Indian press about this threat. Some big business newspapers and individuals like Mr Subramaniam Swamy were constantly harping on Soviet danger to India. 'And now Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee has come out openly to say that Diego Garcia does not pose a direct threat to India and that the danger of Soviet action in Afghanistan should be emphasised.'

Mr Rao strongly refuted these allegations against the USSR,

saying: 'If the Soviets were not with us we don't know what would have happened to us.'

The Communist Party of India wants to make it abundantly clear that our party, as other Left and democratic parties, will not only not be found wanting when the country faces external danger, but will be in the forefront of such a struggle,' the statement said. But the CPI was convinced that Mrs Gandhi was trying to confuse the people and trying to cover up her anti-people and provested interest policies by crying about the external danger to India.

The Prime Minister must realise that if external danger is to be faced effectively, the people's misery has to be at least mitigated so that they may be effectively rallied for the country's defence,' it pointed out.

The statement was sharply critical of the Congress-I in the light of present political developments. Referring to Mrs Gandhi's call for a dialogue on national issues, it said: 'If she is really serious about such a dialogue, she should spell out in concrete terms the issues on which she wishes to have such a dialogue with the Left and democratic parties, and her proposals to give immediate relief to the suffering people.'

Mr Rao said while Mrs Gandhi was speaking of a dialogue with the Opposition, she was trying something quite different in Assam. On Assam, her position was:



"I don't need the help of political parties. I can solve the problem myself."

The CPI leader said it was imperative for her to call tripartite talks where representatives of the Congress-U, CPI, CPI-M—who have actually suffered while trying to resist the agitators—would be present.

The time was ripe for a negotiated solution precisely because the agitators, after one year, are tired and even among the Assamese the agitators are alienated. In his view, the agitators had come to realise they could not continue their movement for long. At this juncture we should not do anything that would place Assamese in the hands of extremists, he added.

Referring to the recent spurt in peasant struggles in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh, Mr Rao said: 'The most important point is that these struggles were joint struggles. If the working class had not come out in support of the peasants in Karnataka, Mr Gundu Rao would not have stopped massacre of peasants. In Andhra Pradesh, the

working class and agricultural labourers are also with the peasants. Even the Congress-I masses are joining these struggles.'

But Mrs Gandhi's characterisation of the peasant movement as a 'kulak movement' was a move to pit consumers against peasants. 'This is a clever way to defend monopolists, big traders and landlords,' he remarked. If Mrs Gandhi was really keen to fight the landlords, 'let her implement land reforms in all sincerity,' he said.

In this context, he pointed to the success in this field by the United Front Government of Kerala over the last several years as well as the achievement in setting up an efficient public distribution system, something 'recognised by even the Congress-I people in the state.'

Mr Rao denounced the attacks on workers by monopolists in different parts of the country and highlighted the important role Left and democratic forces had played in exposing the talk of changeover to a presidential form of government. He sharply criticised Mrs Gandhi in trying to tar the Left with the Right with the same brush as she did in her

speech at the civic reception to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

In reply to questions, he clarified that the CPI had all along been critical of Mrs Gandhi's domestic policies. Currently, the Congress-I Government was on the whole pursuing a policy of peace and non-alignment in the field of foreign affairs, but internally it is defending monopolists. Since the Second World War in several developing countries one could see the emergence of Governments which had progressive anti-imperialist policies in foreign affairs, but were following dictatorial and obscurantist policies at home. In this context, he pointed to the examples of Libya under Gaddafi and Iran under Khomeini.

Asked why the CPI had joined hands with the BJP in Andhra, Mr Rao said it was the insistence of 'some Left parties' which had forced the CPI to accept the BJP in the movement on such issues like price-rise. 'But now the situation has changed. And moreover, the BJP is not joining these movements with its cadres as the Left parties are doing.'

## GOVERNMENT CHANGES POLICY ON THIRD AIRLINE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by K. N. Malik: "A-I, IA to Run Third Service"]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, January 6.

**T**HIRD-level air services will be operated by a company sponsored jointly by Air-India and Indian Airlines. Both public sector airlines will provide the necessary funds for acquiring new aircraft as well as operating the feeder services. This was decided today at a high-level meeting.

This is a major policy change. Earlier, the government wanted to float an independent public sector company to be funded by the government of India. The two airlines now would become controlling companies.

When the proposal was first mooted, it was visualised that it would be a subsidiary company of Indian Airlines. The latter, however, did not want to float a company which would be perpetually in the red.

It was estimated that the first phase of the operation in the north-eastern region would result in a recurring annual loss of Rs. one crore. During the first phase, about 15 points in the north and one in Lakshadweep were to be linked by feeder services.

At a later stage, the company was to cover another 25 points. The total recurring annual loss on the country-wide operation was estimated at Rs. five to six crores.

Indian Airlines opposed the proposal mooted by the committee on the third level operation headed by the then director-general of civil aviation, Mr. B. S. Gidwani. The suggestion that a ten per cent embarkation charge should be levied on all passengers travelling by Indian Airlines was also rejected.

Another suggestion to make the third level services viable, that the aircraft and spares purchased for feeder services should be exempted from the payment of customs duty

and that excise duty on fuel and the charges for landing, parking and navigation should be waived, was also not accepted by the government.

The national transportation committee appointed in early 1978 rejected the Gidwani committee's suggestion that the entire country should be covered by feeder services, but accepted that the feeder services be started to cover the north-eastern region and Lakshadweep.

The NTPC was against feeder services in regions other than north-east on the ground that there were other modes of transport available which were more economical.

There was, therefore, no need to make an investment of about Rs. 50 crores which was estimated for covering all the 50 points which were to be linked as per the Gidwani committee recommendations.

CSO: 4220

## ANDHRA PRADESH 1980 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS REVIEWED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Jan 81 p 5

[Article by K. K. Sastry: "Andhras Enter 1981 With High Hopes"]

[Text]

HYDERABAD, January 6.

**T**HE year that has gone by was only a half-year for the state as far as governmental functioning, agricultural production and industrial output were concerned. The new chief minister, Mr. T. Anjiah, has plenty to do and get done to make his New Year wishes to the people a reality.

The former chief minister, Dr. M. Chenna Reddy, hamstrung by disidence, could hardly attend to the state's mounting problems from April till his exit in October. The entire administration was thus paralysed.

After the budget session, Dr. Reddy had to give the go-by to the monsoon session of the legislature. There was a brief session of less than a week in October, preparatory to his departure.

With more than half of the members of the cabinet and the legislature Congress (I) party turning disident, he forbore to call a meeting of either, except as a valedictory formality. Mr. Anjiah was in no hurry to call a winter session of the two houses.

## GRAIN OUTPUT

A drought for the second year in succession ravaged half of the 23 districts, cutting the cash crops and depressing a vast majority of the state's population, which already lives below the poverty line, closer to the parched earth. A good monsoon in the delta districts, however, yielded a paddy harvest of six million tonnes, which is close to the government estimate.

A 30-per cent power cut for major industries up to August 1 plus trippings and unannounced shut-offs

reduced their output to nearly half. Out of the two drillings for oil and gas in the Godavari basin and offshore, the second proved infructuous, although this is not taken as a cause for despair.

While the government sanctioned 24 new degree and junior colleges during the year, the University Grants Commission released a report that half of the existing colleges were not viable. The government talked of adding new irrigation facilities but a survey disclosed that only 42.5 per cent of the lands in the command areas were really benefiting from the projects.

It was a year of agitations, strikes and bandhs. Several of them were the result of controversial measures taken by Dr. Chenna Reddy. Students went on the rampage more than once — on issues ranging from capitation fees for private engineering colleges, rotten conditions in "social welfare" hostels for the backward classes, non-payment of stipend arrears, the hawire functioning of computers in giving out intermediate results and the hike in RTC bus fares. And on several occasions, there were lathi-charges.

There were marches against the sudden levelling of huts built on encroached government lands and on ordinance saying that prior notice to such destruction was not needed. There was an agitation against the proposal to split the road transport corporation into several zonal units.

Hoteliers struck for a few days in protest against the arbitrary reduction of the prices of some eatables by fiat. The government employees went on a four-day strike in support of their demands, paralysing work in the Andhra districts. Both

were ended through belated compromises after rigid postures on all sides.

## "TREASURE TROVES"

All was not, however, gloom although unemployment climbed to 1.41 million from 1.3 million on the "live registers" and prices rose and shortages tried the people's patience.

There was for instance, the glittering prospect of finding gold veins and diamond belts in a state which gloried in ancient times in their abundance. Rayalaseema and the Krishna basin are being scoured by geologists and seismographers for these treasure troves.

Even as work on the Ramagundam super-thermal power station got underway, the Centre has indicated its willingness to set up another such unit in Manururu in the same region. The Rs. 224-crore Ramagundam coal-based fertiliser unit, with a capacity of 1,500 tonnes of urea a day (worth Rs. 100 crores a year), went into production.

The Russian-aided steel plant in Visakhapatnam, for which the Andhras fought for two decades, has taken shape. An aluminium project, also with Russian assistance, is also likely to come off the drawing boards.

## SPONGE STEEL UNIT

The Rs. 16.5-crore sponge steel unit near Kothagudem, the first of its kind in the country, was inaugurated on the last day of the year by the Vice-President, Mr. M. Hidayatullah. A few days earlier, the President, Mr. N. Sanjeeva Reddy, laid the foundation-stone of a Rs. 12-crore railway coach repair unit which at one time was threatened with a shift to Tamil Nadu. This

will provide employment to 5,000 artisans and boosts many ancillary industries.

There were the three new lines of production by Allwyns, the most successful state-sector multi-production unit, for making industrial sewing machines, watches and compressors, all in collaboration with Japanese industrial giants, which had not shared their know-how with any foreign establishment previously.

The tobacco glut of the past three years was relieved by a Russian offer to lift 27,000 tonnes. In several fields, . . . where there were

phenomenal increases, like salt, jute and poultry farming, the producers were, however, filled with anxiety about the disposal of their stocks.

With egg production crossing the million-a-day mark, poultry farmers even suggested to the Prime Minister that he should arrange an egg-for-oil barter deal with the Gulf countries.

While such was the chiaroscuro of 1980 for the state, the people hung up their new calendars with all the fervent hopes a new government and the turn of the year raise in their hearts.

CSO: 4220

## SATHE SCORES 'DISTORTED' REPORTING ON FARMERS' MARCH

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Dec 80 p 3

[Text]

NEW DELHI, December 29.

**M**R. Vasant Sathe, information and broadcasting minister, is understood to have suggested to government media men today that it would be preferable to rely on reports from their own correspondents in the field rather than take news agency reports.

Mr Sathe's inaugural speech to the Central Information Service officers in the Press Information Bureau was not open to the press. But it is understood that he has taken note of the complaint lodged by eight Maharashtra ministers about "distorted" reporting in the media on the "long march" culminating in Nagpur.

Radio quoted a news agency report as saying that 15,000 people were arrested, when the state government's stand was that 5,000 were arrested.

As the Maharashtra minister and 22 MLAs came with a memorandum signed by 110 legislators complaining to the Prime Minister about distorted reporting by government media. Mr. Ramrao

Adik, the finance minister, led this delegation.

When some ministers and MPs from the state called on Mr. C. M. Stephen, communications minister and member of the parliamentary board, one MP pointed out that even a pro-Congress (I) newspaper belonging to a cabinet minister in the state, had reported that the "dindi" was received by 70,000 people in one Vidarbha town. The inference was drawn that if this newspaper gave a figure of 70,000, the actual assembly must have been twice that size.

None of the ministers who visited New Delhi and met newsmen after calling on the Prime Minister could state the exact source of a report received by the state government from New Delhi which described them grossly. The mystery report was that some 500 men armed with swords had entered the assembly and that there had been bloodshed in Nagpur. It was only hinted that the chief minister received this information and told some of his cabinet colleagues about it.

As the report did not figure in any newspaper in Nagpur or New Delhi, intrigued party leaders feel that it could be an intelligence report, a political briefing or sheer mischief.

The fact is that the report was baseless. Yet, that report had the impact of ministers and legislators rushing to New Delhi to tell the high command that everything was normal in Nagpur.

Mrs. Shalinital Patil, revenue minister, who did not meet the Prime Minister along with the other ministers in two days ago, as she was not informed in time about the meeting, met Mrs. Gandhi this morning in connection with scarcity conditions reportedly prevailing in some 19 districts of the state. She met Mr. N. D. Tewari, planning minister, and will also be meeting the finance minister and the agriculture minister tomorrow.

The ministers are understood to have decided to meet Mrs. Gandhi together so that their briefing regarding the recently concluded state assembly session would have a greater impact on her.

They sought to dispel the widespread feeling that the cutting short of the tenure of the assembly session proved to be a "psychological setback" to the ruling party creating the impression that the state government was afraid of facing the agitating farmers.

While some ministers privately admitted that it was "bad advice" to shorten the duration of the winter session of the assembly in Nagpur, they maintain that except for the farmers' march, there were no other large-sized protest demonstrations accompanied, as in the past, by violence and police action.

## PLANS FOR INDIGENOUS AUTOMOBILE REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Jan 81 p 5

[Text]

By 1983, a totally indigenous motor car should be available, Minister of State for Industry Charanjit Chanana said on Thursday.

Addressing the Forum of Financial Writers Dr Chanana said the Government has begun revitalising the existing machinery at the Maruti plant.

He said the Cabinet had decided and the Planning Commission had agreed in principle to accommodate an automobile project in the public sector in the sixth Plan period.

Until now two foreign parties had submitted proposals for collaboration with the prospective public sector car undertaking, Dr Chanana said. By the end of the month, their proposals would be processed.

From the foreign collaborators, the car company would import only software.

It would produce a total range of automobiles, from passenger cars to trucks. To realise optimum economies of scale production of 100,000 units would be necessary, he said. This would include, on the present reckoning, cars and pickups.

Giving a resume of his tenure the Minister said the rate of growth of industrial production was negative when his Government took charge. It was showing 10 per cent in December last.

Stating that the investment climate in the country was on the mend, he said the report of the security section of the State Bank of India for 1980 showed that 46 issues were oversubscribed, some to the extent of 105 times.

He said the Industry Ministry was conducting a census of ob-

solescence in industry to determine which units or sectors required soft loans for re-generation.

The Minister said entrepreneurs who fail to implement industrial licences within the time limit mentioned in their applications may be black listed.

He said the licences that crossed the time limit would be cancelled to check against pre-emption of industrial capacities.

Dr Chanana indicated that Government was also thinking of suitable penal provisions to ensure implementation of licences.

Dr Chanana said it was only an "excuse" on the part of industrialists to blame the capital market. Figures of company issues compiled by the State Bank of India would show "positive indicators" with some of the issues being oversubscribed — in one case by as many as 105 times.

He said Government was trying to conduct a "census" of obsolescence in the industry.

CSO: 4220



## LARGE MINERAL DEPOSITS FOUND IN THAR DESERT

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Jan 81 p 16

[Text]

VARANASI, Jan. 6.

Indian geologists have discovered a massive bed containing several million tons of rock-salt 100 metres below the Indian Thar desert.

The salt bed which is some 500 metres thick, occupies an area of some 80,000 sq. kms. under the desert sands, according to Dr. V. S. Krishnaswami, Director General of the Geological Survey of India.

Dr. Krishnaswami who was here for the Indian Science Congress session told PTI that the top layer of the salt bed contained a fantastic amount of 'potash'.

The potash analysed so far was not suitable for fertilizer use. "But we are confident of locating in the central part of the basin the kind of potash that can be used as fertilizer," Dr. Krishnaswami said.

Even if a fraction of the potash was exploited, India would have an unlimited supply of this valuable fertilizer.

The GSI had launched a major project aimed at exploiting the potash under the Rajasthan desert. Four wells had

already been drilled to a depth of 900 metres under what was said to be one of the most difficult operations in desert conditions.

**Tungsten Deposits**

Apart from potash very large deposits of the strategic material tungsten had been discovered by the GSI in the Sirohi district of Rajasthan where geologists had also made an accidental discovery of a "manure-belt" of lead and zinc in Agucha area. The lead-zinc was commercially "very viable."

Following the discovery in Sirohi, the GSI had launched a tungsten project while Hindustan Zinc Limited was already on the job of exploiting the lead-zinc in Agucha.

Apart from potash and tungsten, the GSI had launched two major programmes on diamond and tin. Dr. Krishnaswami said.

**Sodium Silicate from Rice Husk Ash**

The Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute (CGCRI), Calcutta, a

unit of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, has developed a process for the manufacture of sodium silicate from rice husk ash, (reports UNI from New Delhi).

Usually sodium silicate is made by fusing sand and soda ash. The process developed by CGCRI has several advantages over the old process. The process is simple and requires a lower capital investment. It is ideally suited to the small sector.

Also, the fuel consumption is low and the iron content in the product is less.

The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) has released the process for commercial exploitation.

**NEW DELHI:** REC Aid: The Rural Electrification Corporation has sanctioned over Rs. 12.5 crores for 53 new electrification projects in ten States including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. The project will help extend electricity to over 700 additional villages and energise more than 18,000 irrigation pumpsets.

## BRIEFS

**MESSAGE TO PAKISTAN--**New Delhi, Jan 8: Mrs Gandhi has in a message to President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan sent her good wishes for the welfare "of the friendly people of Pakistan." The message, dated January 2, sent yesterday, was in response to a message sent by President Zia to the Prime Minister on her birthday. Mrs Gandhi reciprocated the good wishes of the President and wished him and his country a successful New Year. Mrs. Gandhi's message has been sent through India's Ambassador in Islamabad, Mr Natwar Singh. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Jan 81 p 9]

**LOAN FROM NETHERLANDS--**Mr K. H. Beyen, Minister of State for Economic Affairs of the Netherlands, told reporters at Calcutta airport on Thursday that his country would give India a loan of \$100 million during the financial year 1981-82. The money was earmarked for fertilizers, flood control and development work. Mr Beyen said that steps were being taken for the promotion of sale of Indian tea at the International Tea Sale Centre in the Netherlands. There was considerable cooperation between India and his country, the Minister said. There would be fresh negotiations between the two countries in February. The Prince of the Netherlands along with other delegates would visit India for the negotiations, he added. Mr Beyen, who arrived from Amsterdam led a eight-member delegation to Seoul via Hong Kong. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Jan 81 p 9]

**BHEL GENERATORS TO NEPAL--**Bhopal, Jan 7 (PTI): The Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Bhopal has taken yet another bold step on the export front by supplying two hydro-generators for the Ulekhan Hydro electric project in Nepal, a BHEL spokesman said here today. The undertaking had already made an impact in export market with supply of 53 MW generators to New Zealand and 28 MW turbines to Thailand. The 35 MVA generators for Nepal, he said was the highest speed hydro machine (600 revolutions per minute), successfully designed, manufactured and tested at BHEL-Bhopal. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jan 81 p 5]

**MENON ENERGY CHIEF--**Varanasi, Jan 4: Prof M.G.K. Menon will be the chairman of the new commission for alternative sources of energy which is being set up by the Union Government, reports UNI. The commission will include the secretary, Power Department, as a finance member. It will advise the Government on its energy policy and draw up and implement programmes on alternative sources of energy. The commission will function as part of the Department of Science

and Technology, according to sources close to the department. It will find alternative sources of energy to conserve petrol and petroleum products. The commission will function on the lines of the Energy Commission, according to Mr C.P.N. Singh, Minister of State for Science and Technology. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Jan 81 p 9]

**GORKHA LEAGUE LEADER DIES**--Mr Deoprasad Rai, leader of the Gorkha League and a member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, died at SSKM Hospital in Calcutta late on Monday night. A hospital spokesman said he was suffering from liver ailments for the past few days. He was 49. Born in 1932, in a Darjeeling district tea estate, Mr Rai began life as a trade unionist. For a long time he was president of the All-India Telegraph Traffic Class IV Employees' (Darjeeling Division) Union. He was also general secretary of the All-India Gorkha League and a well-known writer in Nepali. During World War II he served in the Indian Army for three years and later worked in the Bengal Government's Labour Directorate until 1947. In 1950 he was deported from Malaya for political reasons. In 1967 and 1969 he was Minister for Scheduled Castes' and Scheduled Tribes' Welfare in the two United Front Governments. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Jan 81 p 1]

**BIHAR BJP EXECUTIVE**--Patna, Jan 5: A 40-member State executive committee of the Bharatiya Janata Party was constituted here today, a party release said, reports UNI. The following were elected office-bearers: President--Mr Jagdambí Yadav, Vice-Presidents--Mr Kailashpati Mishra, Mr Tarakant Jha, Mr Kariya Munda, Mr Maheshwar Prasad Singh and Mr Chatru Ram Mahato, General Secretaries--Mr Jagbandhu Adhika, Mr Shivendra Prasad Singh and Mr Shailendra Nath Shrivastava, Secretaries--Mr Janardhan Yadav, Mr Sabhapati Vishwakarma, Mr Kameshwar Paswan, Mr Basant Kumar Sharma and Mr Ali Akbar Khan, Treasurer--Mr Ashwini Kumar. Besides, 26 people have been elected members of the executive committee. The committee will hold a three-day meeting from January 17. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Jan 81 p 9]

**MEGHALAYA CABINET EXPANDED**--Shillong, Jan 6: The Meghalaya Ministry has been expanded. Two more Ministers were sworn in this morning at Raj Bhavan. The Governor, Mr L. P. Singh, administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Grosewell Myllynnegap as Cabinet Minister and Mr Beinstand Momin as Minister of State. Mr Myllynnegap will hold the Agriculture portfolio and Mr Momin will assist the Chief Minister, Mr B. B. Lyngdoh, in the Education portfolio. The strength of the Ministry has now gone up to 15. Both the Ministers joined the ruling All-Party Hill Leaders Conference recently from the Opposition. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jan 81 p 9]

**MARXIST-LENINIST APPEAL**--Mr Satyanarain Singh, general secretary, CPI(M-L), told reporters in Calcutta on Wednesday that the entire Opposition from the Naxalites to the Bharatiya Janata Party should unite to resist the "authoritarian" forces represented by the Congress (I). He said unlike the CPI(M) which wanted to pick and choose" its partners against "authoritarianism", the CPI(M-L) was willing to "shake hands with the devil himself if he joins us to fight authoritarianism" Mr Singh accused a section of the CPI(M) leadership of wanting to "tie India to the Russian bear", but said that there were still a number of

people in the CPI(M) who were opposed to the Russians. He said these people and "we have a common aspiration. We may join hands some day". Mr Singh said his party would begin a campaign for peace and friendship with Pakistan. He was convinced that Pakistan's proposal for a no-war pact was made from genuine motives because a war could only ruin Pakistan. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 8 Jan 81 p 3]

NATIONAL SECURITY ACT--New Delhi, Jan 7: The National Security Act is now in force, a Home Ministry spokesman said today reports PTI. President Sanjiva Reddy gave his assent to the Act on December 27. The Act replaces the National Security Ordinance which restores preventive detention to the Statute Book and permits detention without trial of people considered "security" risks. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 8 Jan 81 p 14]

INDO-ALGERIAN OIL PACT--Algiers, Jan 6: India has signed an agreement with the Algerian State oil company for 500,000 tons of Algerian crude to be provided during 1981 at the official price of \$40 a barrel reports AP. "The acquisition of this quantity of crude oil will allow India to overcome in part its supply difficulties due to the massive reduction of Iranian and Iraqi exports in the last few months" the Algerian news agency said today. The oil deal, signed yesterday, was the result of the work of a mixed Indo-Algerian commission created in February after the New Delhi visit of the Algerian Foreign Minister, Mr Mohamed Benyahia. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jan 81 p 9]

GOA FREE TRADE ZONE--Panaji, January 5 (PTI): Goa should start its free trade zone by 1983 at Verna in south Goa, the Kirloskar consultancy in its report to the Goa government has said. The Goa government had appointed the Kirloskars to prepare the feasibility report. The report suggested the establishment of a zone with 60 units on a 60 hectare land and sheds should be constructed by 1982, with an estimated cost of Rs. 6 crores. The report felt that a free trade zone would help utilise marine resources, fruits, vegetables, handicrafts. According to report the zone was likely to earn foreign exchange worth of Rs. 120 crores a year and the employment potential would be around 20,000. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF India in English 7 Jan 81 p 6]

DEATH OF MP--Vijayawada, Jan 5: Mr Chadalavada Venkat Rao (48), Congress(I) member of Rajya Sabha, died in a road accident near Moolapadu village, 40 km from here this morning, reports PTI. Mr Venkat Rao was driving a car on his way to Hyderabad when the accident occurred. The car was hit by a lorry coming from the opposite direction. Mr Rao is survived by his wife, four daughters and two sons. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Jan 81 p 16]

TAMIL NADU LANGUAGE--Madurai, January 5 (UNI): Tamil would soon replace English as the language of the courts at all levels in Tamil Nadu, the chief minister, Mr Ramachandran, announced here yesterday. Mr Ramachandran said the state government would progressively introduce Tamil as the language of the courts. Mr Ramachandran announced that September 15, the birthday of his mentor, the late Mr C.N. Annadurai, would be celebrated every year as "world Tamil Day" to facilitate people's participation in the development of Tamil. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Jan 81 p 16]



TAMIL NADU MUSLIM LEAGUE--Salem, December 29 (UNI): The Tamil Nadu Muslim League has split into two with the leaders of the rival factions placing each other under suspension. Mr Mahboob Jan, joint secretary, said the party's state executive, at a meeting here yesterday, decided to suspend Mr Habibullah Baig and Mr Sheikh Thambi president and secretary, respectively, for anti-party activities and appointed him as secretary. Mr Baig and Mr Thambi retaliated by announcing Mr Jan's suspension from the party. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Dec 80 p 1]

AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA--Addis Ababa, Dec 22 (AFP): Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has described the growing "militarization" of the Indian Ocean as a matter of "grave concern" to both Ethiopia and India in a message to Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam. The message, delivered on Saturday at the same time as India's new envoy Prem Kumar Budhwar presented his credentials to the Ethiopian leader, referred in particular to United States activities in the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, official reports said. These activities were a "flagrant violation" of the Lusaka summit of non-aligned nations two years ago, her message said. Mrs Gandhi also declared India's support for the principle of the inviolability of State frontiers and her hope for the halting of all "pressures" against Ethiopia, according to the reports. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Dec 80 p 3]

VIDARBHA ADVOCATE DIES--Nagpur, December 3 (UNI): Mr Godajirao Mukhare, former MLA, freedom fighter and once a staunch protagonist of separate Vidarbha state, died today at Pusad, in Yavatmal district, after a heart attack. He was 67. Born in a rich family, Mr Mukhare joined the freedom struggle at a young age. He participated in the movement against the rulers of the old Hyderabad state. He was elected to the legislative assembly in the old Madhya Pradesh state and was a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council for one term. In their condolence messages, Congress(I) MP Mr Uttamrao Patil, and party MLA Mr T.G. Deshmukh, described Mr Mukhare as a valiant fighter for the cause of the common man. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Dec 80 p 5]

CSO: 4220

## INDIAN FINANCE MINISTER MEETS PRESS IN COLOMBO

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Jan 81 p 9

[Text]

COLOMBO, Jan 6.

The Indo-Sri Lanka relations were at their "best" and no problem of any kind existed between the two non-aligned neighbouring countries.

This was stated here today by the visiting Finance Minister Mr. R. Venkataraman at a news conference when he also declared that there was close cooperation between the two in all fields — political, international and economic.

The conference was also addressed by the Sri Lanka Finance Minister, Mr. Ronnie De Mel and held shortly after the two Ministers signed a new credit agreement for Rs. 10 crores for the purchase of Indian engineering goods and other essential commodities.

Mr. Venkataraman told a questioner that there was "no misunderstanding" of any sort between the two countries following the Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi's comments on the expulsion of the former Premier Mrs. Bandaranaike from Parliament. The statement by the Prime Minister was nothing more than a comment by an international statesman.

A joint communique issued earlier voiced satisfaction over efforts made by both to promote economic cooperation for their mutual benefit.

In a reference to the international economic situation the two Ministers called for urgent action by the international community praising the recent

initiative taken by countries of the South Asian region to promote sub-regional economic cooperation.

**Joint Marketing of Tea:** The two countries also expressed interest in launching a scheme for the joint marketing of tea by India and Sri Lanka.

Asked about the reported Bangladesh-initiated moves for cooperation among the South Asian countries, Mr. Venkataraman said consultations among the countries concerned were still on. In fact there was an exchange of views on this between him and Mr. Ronnie De Mel. Similar bilateral exchanges on the proposal were expected to evolve a basis on which all the countries concerned could come together.

Areas of cooperation had yet to be agreed on, he added. Things were still at a preliminary stage and had not yet moved very far. He, however, stressed that all had "favoured" the proposal.

The release said Indian authorities noted a Sri Lanka proposal for a programme of cooperation with Indian banks in rural credit and development spheres. It was suggested that the Reserve Bank of India and the State Bank of India could provide assistance to Sri Lanka to formulate credit plans for providing medium and long term capital to enterprises in the agricultural sector. The two banks could also provide

assistance in training commercial bank personnel in lending operations to small enterprises.

The Reserve Bank Governor Mr. I. G. Patel and the Indian High Commissioner Mr. Thomas Abraham were present at the signing of the agreement.

Indian economic assistance in the form of credit has totalled Rs. 76.2 crores since 1966 with the signing of today's agreement.

The major portion of this assistance had been in the form of commodity assistance to purchase bus chassis, commercial vehicles, motor spares and other general purpose machinery.

**Enlarged List:** The release said "While in the past, Indian commodity assistance has been essentially confined to the purchase of capital goods and spares, the eligible list of capital goods under the agreement signed today has been expanded to include other essential imports such as fishing gear and auxiliaries, jute twine and jute bags and uniform material".

**PM's Message to Jayewardene:** Mr. Venkataraman, today handed over a message from Mrs. Gandhi to President J. R. Jayewardene.

Mr. Venkataraman called on the President at noon. The Minister was asked at the earlier news conference as to the nature of the message. He said it was a goodwill message.

The President hosted a lunch in honour of Mr. Venkataraman. Earlier, Mr. Venkataraman called on the Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa.—PTI & UNI.



**END OF**

**FICHE**

**DATE FILMED**

Feb. 23 1981



